



NEWTOWN United Methodist Church

August 23, 2026 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rooted in Faith. Growing in Christ. Serving with Love.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering Hymn “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” UMH #400
(Verses 1 & 3)

*Call to Worship

Leader: Come into the presence of God, who sees us with mercy and calls us by grace.

People: We come to worship with open hearts and willing spirits.

Leader: Whatever we carry from the week behind us, God meets us here with compassion.

People: We receive the gift of renewal and the promise of new beginning.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who restores what is weary and makes all things new.

People: We come with gratitude, hope, and praise. Amen.

*Opening Hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” UMH #384
(Verses 1 & 4)

Opening Prayer

God of grace, we come together today carrying different stories, different hopes, and different needs, yet all of us are welcomed by You. Free us from the pressure to prove ourselves, and help us receive the mercy You

offer so freely. Where we carry regret, self-doubt, or the weight of mistakes we cannot undo, give us the courage to believe that Your grace is greater than our worst moments. Let worship today remind us that we are still being renewed. Open us to forgiveness, restore our sense of possibility, and send us forward with greater freedom, humility, and hope. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*Affirmation of Faith UMH #881

Old Testament Reading Zechariah 3:1–5 Pew Bible pg. 880

Congregational Hymn “Freely, Freely” UMH #389

*Gospel Reading Luke 15:11–24 Pew Bible pg. 78

Message “The Robe You Didn’t Earn” Pastor R. Brailsford

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (*unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn of Response “Grace Greater than Our Sin” UMH #365
(Verses 1 & 4)

*Passing of the Peace

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

*Response

Doxology, UMH #94

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Offertory Prayer

*Closing Hymn

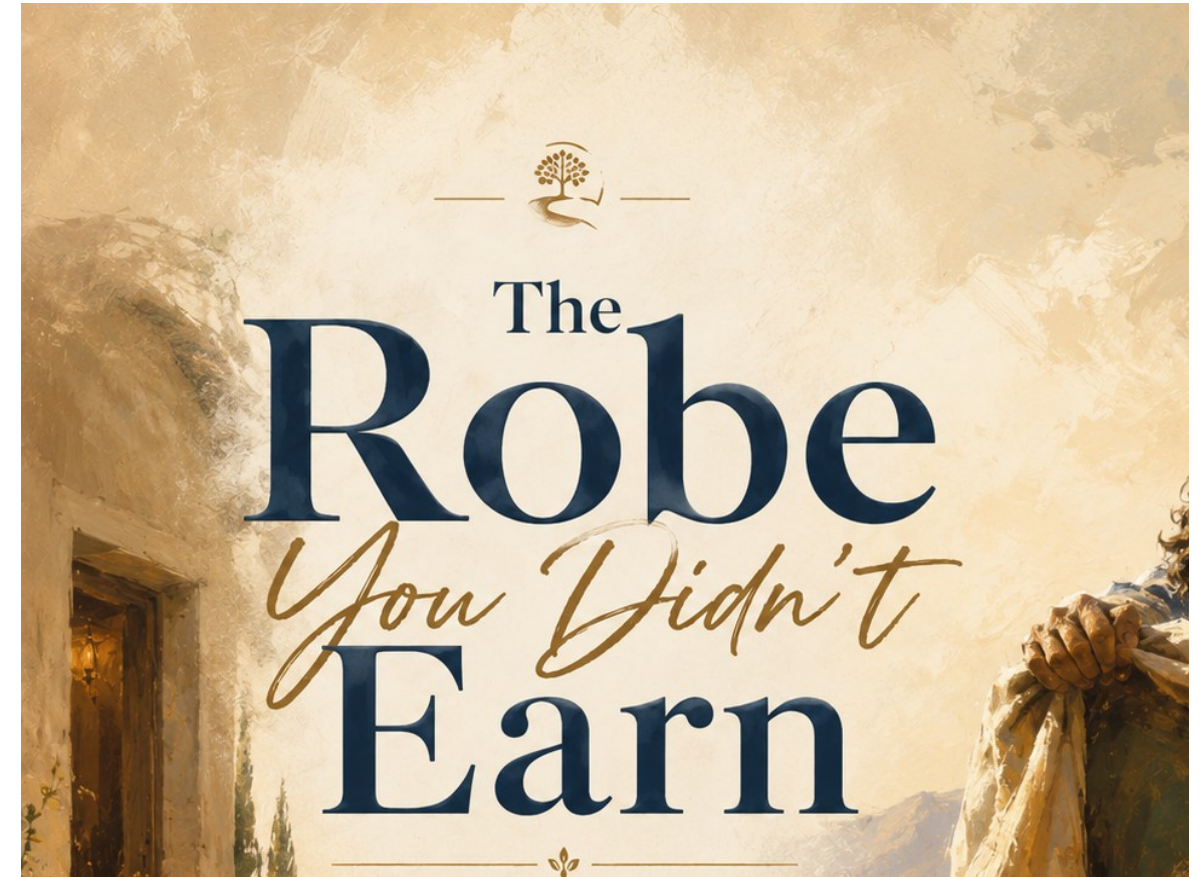
"Because He Lives"

UMH #364

*Dismissal and Blessing

*Postlude:

*Please Stand if able



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