**The Original Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

 **Sunday, August 8th, 2021 9:30am**

 **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

*With restrictions currently rescinded, masking is optional.*

*Thank you for caring for each other’s our well-being.*

 Order of Worship

PRELUDE **“Swimming to the Other Side”** (2002) Pat Humphries

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: By faith, our eyes are opened to the Lord.

**People: By grace, our hearts are made ready for God.**

Leader: In love, our souls are restored for new life.

**People: In worship, we praise the source of all blessing.**

\*OPENING HYMN ***Praise to the Living God***

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,

Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.

God toils where’er we toil, in home and mart and mill;

And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

Praise to the living God, around, within, above,

Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.

In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,

May we bear witness to the way, O Source and Goal of life.

 WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING PRAYER

Lord of Creation, you fashion the heavens and the earth and call it good. We are amazed at the wonder of all living things. We confess we do not always carry ourselves in a way that is open to your grace. We focus on our problems, what we fear, what we lack, and what is uncertain. We can join in the blaming of others. Forgive us our unbelief. Open our eyes and melt our hearts, that we may see the occasions of your grace in all we encounter in this life. In Jesus’ name we pray.

 **\*All who are able please stand**

 (1)

THE LORD’S PRAYER *all versions are welcomed in the Spirit*

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING *from Psalm 146*

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**People: We will praise the Lord as long as we live.**

Leader: Blessed is the one whose hope is in the Lord:

**People: Who made heaven and earth;**

Leader: The sea and all that is in them;

**People: Who keeps faith forever;**

Leader: Who grants justice for the oppressed;

**People: Who gives food to the hungry.**

Leader: The Lord sets the prisoners free.

**People: The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

Leader: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.

**People: The Lord watches over the sojourners.**

Leader: The Lord upholds the widow and orphan.

**People: The Lord will reign forever, praise the Lord!**

 \*ACT OF PRAISE **“Gloria Patri”** (Glory be to the Father)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and forever shall be:**

**World without end. Amen. Amen**.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:1-7 “Jesus Heals the One Born Blind”

As Jesus passed by, he saw the one blind from birth. His disciples asked, “Rabbi, who sinned, this person or the parents, to be born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this person sinned, or the parents, but that the works of God might be displayed on them.” We must work the works of God who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Having said these things, Jesus spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then Jesus anointed the person’s eyes with mud and said, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So the person went and washed and came back seeing.

SERMON “Occasions for Grace”

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is with us.

**People: Christ is in our midst.**

Leader: Let us pray.

 (2)

SILENT PRAYER

\*HYMN ***There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy***

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, like the wideness of the sea;

There’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind;

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God’s word;

And our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL TO OFFERING & SERVICE

By grace we may offer our gifts to lift-up others in faith.

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise him above ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dear God, receive these our gifts we dedicate to your glory. Amen.

\*COMMISSIONING & CONNECTING

*Offer a blessing on your social media and to those near and far.*

Every obstacle in your way is an occasion for God’s grace notes.

\*CLOSING HYMN ***Forward Through the Ages***

Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,

Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,

Manifold the service, one the sure reward.

[Refrain] Forward through the ages, in unbroken line,

Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

Not alone we conquer, not alone we fall;

In each loss or triumph, lose or triumph all.

Bound by God’s far purpose in one living whole,

Move we on together to the shining goal. [Refrain]

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\*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE ***God Be with You Till We Meet Again***

*Please sing along.*

God be with you till we meet again;

Loving counsels guide, uphold you,

With a shepherd’s care enfold you:

God be with you till we meet again.

Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus’ feet;

Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

DISMISSAL

*Please join us for coffee hour refreshments and continued conversation with friends!*

Thank you for being with us in worship this morning!

 We are glad to have you join us for a portion of your Sunday morning!

 May God bless you with all the gifts of the Spirit!

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**THE ORIGINAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

 **1 East St. P.O. Box 657, Wrentham, MA 02093**

 **Office: 508-384-3110 Website: www.occhurch.net Facebook**

**Senior Pastor: Reverend Kenneth C. Landin**

 **Music Director/Organist: Dr. Edward Cetto**

 **Sextons: Bob & Sandy Cummings Office Administrator: Donna Charbatji**

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**LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

**IN OUR PRAYERS…**

**Lynnete Beaudro,** for prayers of safety during her deployment.

**Muriel Beresford,** for prayers of strength and health.

**Nancy Sylvestre**, for healing strength.

 ***Today’s Flowers are dedicated to Glory of God***

**THANK YOU TO TODAY’S USHERS,** Ken Graves and Pam Jennette

**WAYS TO CONTACT US…..**Thru e-mail at office@occhurch.net and 508-384-3110. Pastor Ken’s current OCC contact e-mail address is **revkenlandin@gmail.com** and, he can still be reached on his cell phone at.

**A CALL OUT** for small canning jars for the Fairs, food table use. Please drop them off in the kitchen or the office. Thanks. Jean, Bake/Food table Co-chair**.**

**AN FYI FROM THE ATTIC TREASURES CREW.** There are too many prints and pictures donated thus far. Please feel free to visit the Vestry (there are also cartons of pictures in the Book Room), take any prints you like and kindly make a small donation to Attic Treasures. Also, just received in Attic Treasures is a brand name, good quality baby/youth collection of furniture including a Pack and Play, a high chair, a low chair and a crib/youth bed if you have early interest!

Don’t forget to put your adventure hat on the day of the fair, explore and shop away!

 **THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED beginning August 19th and re-open August 31st.**

 **There will NOT be a Worship Service August 29th.**

 **Teddy will be off August 23rd-30th.**

 **Pastor Ken will be off August 23rd and return September 4th.**

**GREETINGS TO OUR OCC FAMILY!**

 In honor of Joan, I will be running the plant table at our fair in

 November.   If you are willing and able, it’s time to start your

 seedlings and/or baby snips!!   I will be more than happy to pick

 up your offerings and can be reached by calling the office at 508-384-3110.

 Sherry Davis Wilson

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