**The Original Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

 **Sunday, January 16, 2022 10am**

**Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

 **Covid-19**

Please follow recommended public health advisories. Masking and social distancing required. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and care for everyone’s well-being.

 *Order of Worship*

PRELUDE **“The President Sang Amazing Grace”** (2015) Joan Baez

*Please join in singing.* **“Amazing Grace”**

GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

READING OF THE WARRANT *for the OCC Annual Meeting* Steve Tiller

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*Notices for the program, ministries and people of the church are shared.*

CALL TO WORSHIP *from Abraham Lincoln’s “Emancipation Proclamation”*

Leader: That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord 1863, all persons held as slaves within any State,

**People: shall be then, henceforward, and forever free;**

Leader: and the Executive Government of the United States,

**People: will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.**

Leader: And upon this act, an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind,

**People: and the gracious favor of Almighty God.**

 \*OPENING HYMNS **“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” &** **“Kumbaya”** Spirituals

 [Refrain] Swing low, sweet chariot, comin’ for to carry me home.

Swing low, sweet chariot, comin’ for to carry me home.

[Verse] I looked over Jordan and what did I see,

Comin’ for to carry me home?

A band of angels comin’ after me,

Comin’ for to carry me home. [Refrain]

Someone’s prayin’, Lord, kumbaya. Are you listenin’, Lord? kumbaya.

‘Cause I love you, Lord, kumbaya, Oh, Lord, kumbaya.

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

 (1)

GATHERING PRAYER *adapted from “The Rainbow of Thy Peace” Leopold Senghor*

O bless the people, Lord, who seek their own face under the mask and can hardly recognize it. Bless the people and with them, all the peoples of Europe, of Asia, of Africa, of America, who sweat blood and sufferings. And see in the midst of these million waves the sea swell of your people clasping the earth with loving hands beneath the rainbow of thy peace.

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 “A Litany of Rejoicing”

*Adapted from “An African Prayer Book” by Desmond Tutu*

Leader: For rebirth and resilience,

**People: Blessed be God;**

Leader: For the spiritually humble,

**People: Glory to God, hallelujah;**

Leader: For all who are hungry and thirsty for justice,

**People: Praise God and magnify the Lord forever.**

Leader: For all who are banned for speaking the truth,

**People: Blessed be God;**

Leader: For all who triumph over bitter circumstance,

**People: Glory to God, hallelujah!**

Leader: For all who risk life itself for Christ and the gospel,

**People: All praise and glory and love to God forever. Amen.**

\*ACT OF PRAISE No. 36

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 62:1-5 “The Lord Delights in You”

For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent until her vindication shines out like the dawn. The nations shall see your glory. And you shall be called by a new name that the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be desolate. But you shall be called “My delight is in her.” For the Lord delights in you and your God shall rejoice over you.

GOSPEL READING

John 2:1-11 “The Miracle at Cana”

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

SERMON “What We Are Called to Carry”

 (2)

WORDS OF COMFORT – Martin Luther King (1929-1968)

Leader: One day we will learn that the heart can never be totally right,

**People: when the head is totally wrong.**

Leader: Darkness cannot drive out darkness;

**People: only light can do that.**

Leader: Hate cannot drive out hate,

**People: only love can do that.**

Leader: I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love,

**People: will have the final word in reality.**

Leader: This is why right, temporarily defeated,

**People: is stronger than evil triumphant.**

Leader: I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin,

**People: but by the content of their character.**

Leader: Hate is too great a burden to bear.

**People: I have decided to love.**

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is with us.

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

Leader: Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL TO OFFERING & SERVICE

Called by love we carry our God gifts to the Lord!

\*DOXOLOGY with Fanfare No. 44

**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

Loving God of new beginnings and broadened horizons, and for your faithful joy for all your children everywhere we dedicate our gifts and service in your holy name. Amen.

\*COMMISSIONING & CONNECTING

*Send a blessing on your social media and contacts far and wide.*

Carry your love light into the dark and shine it all around!

\*CLOSING HYMN No. 481 ***Lift Every Voice and Sing***  *( Vs. 1 )*

\*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

 (3)

\*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE

**“Great Amen”** *from Lilies of the Field*  Thank you, Sydney Poitier (1927-2022)

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen, nobody knows but Jesus.

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen, glory, hallelujah!

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

\*POSTLUDE **“The Glory of Love”** *Theme from Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner*

You've got to give a little, take a little,

And let your poor heart break a little.

That's the story of, that's the glory of love.

You've got to laugh a little, cry a little, until the clouds roll by a little.

That's the story of, that's the glory of love.

 **k**

Thank you for being in worship with us this morning!

We are glad to welcome you to the OCC.

May God bless you in 2022 with all the gifts of the Spirit.

**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**

**Bells Director: Martha Goodman**

(4)

**LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

**IN OUR PRAYERS…**

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

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

 **Cheryl Rowe,** for prayers of continued healing.

  **Dick Shirley,** for healing and a strong recouperation.

**The Family of Robert Bremlist Jr.,** who passed January 6th, 2022 in Virginia.

Robert was the husband of Marilyn and the father of Heidi and Casey. He was formerly of Norfolk, Ma.

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

**THANK YOU TO TODAY’S LITURGISTS:** Pearl Gottberg

**THANK YOU TO TODAY’S USHERS: There will be no Ushers in January**

**THANK YOU TO TODAY’S COUNTERS:**

 **THE OCC ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD JANUARY 30th, 2022**, immediately following Worship Service in the Sanctuary AND by ZOOM. If you wish to attend by ZOOM and want to be on the invitation only list, please notify Donna in the office before January 28th, with your e-mail address. Please call 508-384-3110 or

 office@occhurch.net. Thanks.

**LUNCH BUNCH, JANUARY 19TH, HAS BEEN CANCELLED**, due to increased Covid cases.

**COFFEE HOUR WILL NOT BE HELD JANUARY 16th, 23rd**, **and 30th,** again due to raising Covid cases.

**THE LADIES BREAKFAST** has been cancelled until further notice, due to the increase in Covid cased.

 **THE CHANCEL CHOIR WILL BE ON HIATIS** for a few weeks and **will not**

rehearse Thursday, January 20th.

 **BIBLE STUDY WILL BE HELD BY ZOOM.** If you want to be on the **new** 2022 Bible Study Zoom, list please notify Donna.

**2022 Spring Yard Sale...**The 2022 spring yard sale is scheduled to be held on May 21st, 2022, from 8 am to noon. Donations may be dropped off in the Vestry starting January 7, 2022. Call Mike Foster if you need assistance. As usual, **do not bring** any **clothes**, **books** that aren’t in pristine condition, **TVs, computers, large stereos, or large furniture**.

 (5)

**OPEN AND AFFIRMING**



 Below is the “Covenant and Welcoming Statement” as presented by the Open and Affirming Task Team. We hope that this statement makes clear that the mission of ONA is to proclaim publicly an unqualified welcome to *all* people at the OCC. This statement expresses what is at the very heart and core of the ONA movement. Try reading it aloud to yourself – it is a very powerful statement! Any questions or comments?

Please see Leesa Burke, Charlotte Capone, Jenn Chace, Jane Claffey, Ned Ligon, Joan Mello, or Walter Spencer.

Welcome to The Original Congregational Church in Wrentham! Because we believe all people are created in God’s image and thus blessed and loved equally by God, and because love is the unifying and strengthening force of our Christian faith, we the members of The Original Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, hereby declare ourselves an Open and Affirming Christian community, expressing Jesus’ inclusive embrace of all people.

We welcome all who have no church home, seek strength, and want to follow the teachings of Jesus.

We welcome believers and non-believers, doubters and questioners, and questioning believers.
We welcome new visitors and old friends.
We welcome grandparents, mothers, fathers and children.

We welcome single and partnered people.
We welcome people of all ages, colors, cultures, abilities, sexual orientations and gender expressions.
We welcome everyone!

Here at The Original Congregational Church, Wrentham, we believe that **whoever you are, and wherever you are on life’s journey,** **you are welcome here**.

*Portions adapted from Bethany Church, Foxboro, MA, and*

*United Church, Walpole, MA*