**The Original Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

 **Sunday, January 23, 2022 10am**

**Third 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 **“Nimrod”**  *from*  **The Enigma Variations, Mvt. 9**

 Edward Elger (1857-1934)

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 Steve Tiller

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When we experience struggles of the soul,

**People: We turn to the Spirit of God and we pray.**

Leader: When we need to ascend to our higher way,

**People: We sing for the Spirit of God to descend upon our heart.**

\*OPENING HYMN No. 224

 ***Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart***  *( Vs. 4 & 5 )*

 GATHERING PRAYER

Lord, teach us to love you as your angels love. Grant us to be one in your holy passion to build the world within your framework of faith. May the waters of our baptism, like the rains from above, come and make heaven descend into our heart to refresh the world. May your beautiful words be seen and heard and given freely to all that we may join in your joyous song of life. Amen.

 **\*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 16 vs. 1, 4-6, 14*

The organ interpolations are from **“ Die Ehre Gottes aus der Natur”**

(The Heavens are Telling) by Ludwig van Beethoven, written in 1803.

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God;

**All: And the firmament proclaims his handiwork.**

Leader: In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun,

**All: And like the strong runs its course with joy.**

Leader: It’s rising is from the end of the heavens,

**All: And nothing is hidden from its heat.**

Leader: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable to you,

**All: Oh, Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

\*ACT OF PRAISE “Praise to the Lord”

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation!**

**All that have life and breath, sing out the heart’s jubilation!**

**Let the amen sound from God’s people again;**

**Joining in glad adoration!**

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 “We are Baptized into One Body”

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body…If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.”

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:14-21 “Jesus Reads from the Scroll of Isaiah”

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

SERMON “We Need You”

WORDS OF COMFORT **“Ubi caritas”** (There is Love)

Leader: Where charity and love are,

**All: There is God.**

(2)

**Women: The love of Christ has gathered us into one.**

**Men: Let us exult. Let us be joyful.**

Leader: Where charity and love prevail,

**All: There God is.**

**Women: And in the midst of us be Christ,**

**Men: When we are gathered as one.**

Leader: Where charity and love abound,

**All: God is there.**

**Women: Together with the blessed may we see, gloriously,**

**Men: Thy countenance, O Christ our God,**

**All: O immense joy, through the ages of ages. Amen.**

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

*Please place your gifts in the drop box before or after the service. Thank You!*

The Lord is upon us to proclaim joy through the giving of our gifts.

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY No. 44

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

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

**Praise God, above, ye heavenly host;**

**Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, with joy we return our gifts to you and to your glory! Amen.

\*COMMISSIONING & CONNECTING

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

Even a stopped clock can’t be stopped from telling the time when it’s time.

\*CLOSING HYMN No. 39 ***O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*** *( All vs. )*

\*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

 (3)

\*POSTLUDE **“Prelude in C minor”** J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

 **k**

Welcome to the OCC! We are glad you have joined us in worship this morning.

Please note that Coffee Hour food and refreshments are not served today.

May God bless you in 2022 with all the gifts of Life in 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**

**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.

 **Steve Davis,** for continued strength and resilience in healing.

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

**THANK YOU TO TODAY’S LITURGISTS: Bob Boissy**

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

**THANK YOU TO TODAY’S COUNTERS: Jerry & Joyce Long, Mike Foster**

 **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.

**COFFEE HOUR WILL NOT BE HELD JANUARY 23rd**, **and 30th,**  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 hiatus until THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17th.

 (4)

 **KITCHEN ELVES IS CANCELLED FOR FEBRUARY...**

**NEW OCC ZOOM MEETING**

Bible Study continues on Zoom Tuesday’s at 10am**.** Let Pastor Ken know if you would like to join.

 **A NOTE FROM THE COLLECTOR:**

 Pledge statements will be sent out this week either by mail or email.  Please let me know if you have any questions.

**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 . 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**.

******ONA UPDATE RE: OPEN FORUM III, TBA**

At December’s Open Forum II, concern was expressed about how the

OCC declaring itself an *Open and Affirming* church would affect its future. In response to that concern, the ONA Team is planning Open Forum III to be held when the current Covid spike has subsided and as many people as possible will be able to attend. With the understanding that no two churches are identical, we have invited Charlie Oliver of Second Congregational Church in Attleboro to share with us what his church experienced after it joined the ONA Coalition some years ago. Charlie was one of the leaders of their ONA Team and also has served as Moderator of his church. If time permits, after Charlie has spoken and answered questions, there will be an open discussion of ONA matters. Stay tuned (and safe) for a Save the Date!