**The Original Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

**Sunday, January 30, 2022 10am**

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**OCC Annual Meeting**

**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  **“What the World Needs Now”** Burt Bacharach (b. 1928)

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.**

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our hearts are gathered in Christian love.

**People: We pour out our prayers upon the Lord.**

Leader: Together we bear each other’s burdens and cares.

**People: In worship we are joined in heart and hope.**

\*OPENING HYMN No. 368 ***Blest Be the Tie that Binds***  *( vs. 1 & 3 )*

GATHERING PRAYER

Leader: Gracious God, gather us in for worship this day. May your Spirit flow through our spirits in our praise and thanks. We rejoice to hear your Word lifted up in our midst. Shape our community by your love. Make new this creation through beautiful words and deeds nurtured in communities of faith and care. Bless us to be renewed in your generous Spirit. 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 71*

Leader: In you, O Lord, I take refuge.

**People: Let me never be put to shame.**

Leader: In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me.

**People: Incline your ear to me and save me.**

Leader: Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save.

**People: For you are my rock and my fortress.**

Leader: Rescue me from the unjust and the cruel.

**People: For you, O Lord are my hope.**

Leader: My trust is in you, O Lord, from my youth.

**People: My praise is continually of you.**

\*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

1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13 “The Greatest of these is Love”

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:21-30 “The Scripture is Fulfilled in your Hearing”

SERMON “The Word is Love”

\*HYMN No. 68 ***The Gift of Love***  *( vs. 2 & 3 )*

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

We are called to strengthen our mission through the giving of our gifts!

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\*DOXOLOGY No. 45

**Praise God for love we all may share.**

**Praise God for beauty everywhere.**

**Praise God for hope of good to be.**

**Praise God for truth that makes us free.**

**Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, we dedicate our gifts to your glory, our work to your vision. Amen.

\*COMMISSIONING & CONNECTING

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

What the world needs now is love sweet love and so are you!

\*CLOSING HYMN No. 238 ***The Church’s One Foundation*** *( vs. 1 & 2 )*

\*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE **Quodlibet on the Hymn Tune: “Foundation”**

Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;

For I am your God, and will still give you aid.

**k**

Thank you for being in worship with us this morning!

We are glad to welcome you to the OCC.

There is no coffee or refreshments served today.

Our Annual Meeting will be held in the sanctuary following worship.

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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.

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

**Dick Shirley,** for prayers of a continued strong recouperation.

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

**Aida Catlow**, for prayers of recouperation and well-being.

**Peg Mercier** for prayers of peace and healing.

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

**THANK YOU TO TODAY’S LITURGISTS: Pam Jennette**

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

**There will be no Ushers in January or in February**

**COFFEE HOUR WILL NOT BE HELD JANUARY 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.

**KITCHEN ELVES IS CANCELLED FOR FEBRUARY.. LUNCH BUNCH IS PENDING.**

**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. Thank you, Joyce

**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!