**The Original Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

 **Sunday, February 13, 2022 10am**

**Sixth 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 **“Etude in Ab major”** ( The Aeolian Harp )

 Frederic Chopin (1810-1849) Daniel Goldsmith, pianist

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.**

OPENING MUSIC  **“Fanfare”** *from Suite for Handbells*  Michael Helman

 The Wrentham wRingers

 LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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

\*OPENING HYMN No. 8 ***From All that Dwell below the Skies***

GATHERING PRAYER

God of Mid-Winter and Seasonal Weather, we pray that you favor us with an early Spring. Thank you for nurturing the earth with water from the heavens. May we too grow strong, taking our strength from you. Prepare us for the season of life and service ahead. May our heart be set on your heart, our mind be set on your wisdom, our ways always be your ways, we pray. Amen.

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.**

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

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RESPONSIVE READING *from Psalm 1*

Leader: Happy are those who do not follow advice of the wicked.

**People: Or take the path that sinners tread.**

Leader: Their delight is in the law of the Lord.

**People: They meditate on God’s law, day and night.**

Leader: They are like trees planted by streams of water.

**People: They yield their fruit in its season.**

Leader: Their leaves do not wither.

**People: In all that they do, they prosper.**

Leader: The Lord watches over us.

**People: The Lord watches over the way of the righteous.**

\*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

Jeremiah 17:5-10 “I, the Lord, Test the Mind and Search the Heart”

ANTHEM **“Meditation”** *from Suite for Handbells* Michael Helman

 The Wrentham wRingers

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:17-26 “The Sermon on the Plain”

SERMON “Of Ways and Woes”

\*HYMN No. 482 ***Forward Through the Ages*** *( Vs. 1 & 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

*Please place your gifts in the drop box before or after worship.*

Let us now rejoice in faith through the giving of our gifts.

OFFERTORY **“Toccata”** *from Suite for Handbells* Michael Helman

 The Wrentham wRingers

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\*DOXOLOGY

**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

Dear God, we are happy to dedicate our lives to service in your name!

\*COMMISSIONING & CONNECTING

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

May the Lord turn all your woes into ways towards gladness.

\*CLOSING HYMN No. 486 ***For All the Saints*** *( Vs, 1 & 2 )*

\*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE **“You are the Sunshine of My Life”**

 Stevlan Hardaway Morris ( Stevie Wonder )

\*POSTLUDE **“C major Prelude”** *from Well-tempered Clavier, Book 2*

 J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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Good morning and welcome to the OCC!

Thank you for being with us in worship today.

We are not serving bread and juice today as part of our communion prayers.

Today we are not serving coffee and refreshments following worship.

A virtual coffee hour will take place on Zoom Meeting after worship service.

**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**

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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 recovery.

**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, healing and well-being.

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

**The Maddy Harper Family,** during the sudden loss of her brother in-law.

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

**THANK YOU TO TODAY’S LITURGISTS:**

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

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

**DANIEL GOLDSMITH IS VISITING TODAY,** as he auditions at conservatories in Boston and New York for a Masters degree in accompanying. Danny teaches choral music, is a church musician, and conducts musical theater in Santa Cruz, CA. He is a former student of Dr. Cetto at the University of the Pacific, Conservatory of Music.

**WELCOME TO THE WORLD…. *Xiuje Amaru Yngojo Wong Cetto***, who was born February 5, 2022, 7 lbs. 1 oz., 10 fingers, 10 toes, to Xiani Yngojo Wong and Giulio Cetto. Huzzah!

 **FEBRUARY 27TH IS BLANKET SUNDAY**

Church World Service (CWS) envelopes have been placed in the pews in anticipation of Blanket Sunday. This is an annual opportunity to support vulnerable people throughout the world during times of crisis or disaster. Donations are used to provide light and heavy weight blankets to victims as they endure storms, fires or warfare. All donations of any size are appreciated. Checks should be made out to the church with Blanket Sunday written in the memo. Thank you for considering this national and worldwide relief effort!

**THE LADIES BREAKFAST** has been cancelled until further notice. Look for updates.

**LUNCH BUNCH FOR FEBRUARY IS CANCELLED FOR FEBRUARY.**

**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**.

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**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!

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, gender identities and expressions.
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

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