



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, March 6th, 2022 10am
First Sunday of Lent
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Order of Worship

PRELUDE **“Berceuse”** (Lullaby) *from* “Band of Brothers”
Michael Kamen

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.

RESPONSIVE CONFESSION *singing Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*
We take time to pray in word, song and silence.

Leader: With confidence in God’s steadfast love, let us enter into this time of prayer. Creator God, by your Holy Spirit we are led into the wilderness of trial and temptation. In life we hunger for food, fame and power. We put your love to the test. Forgive us we pray.

**People: Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.**

Leader: Our dear Lord and Savior Christ, even you with the devil must contend. In our own forty days we become distracted by other things, we listen to other voices, we try to rely on our own strength. Forgive us our unbelief and grant us your strength to overcome our sin.

**People: And through these days of penitence, and through your Passion-tide,
Forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.**

Leader: O Gracious Spirit, lead us through these trying times of the soul. We experience the anguish of loved ones who undergo great suffering. Lead us not to take the easy way out or settle for superficial or false narratives. Prepare our hearts through confession to enter your jubilation.

**People: Abide with us that when this life of suffering is past,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Dear Beloved of God, be assured that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: By faith all things are made new. Amen.

***All who are able please stand**

(1)

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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

*OPENING HYMNS

HYMN No. 57 ***I Sing the Mighty Power of God*** (vs. 2 & 3)

HYMN No. 60 ***This is My Father's World*** (vs. 2 & 3)

HYMN No. 80 ***Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*** (vs. 2 & 3)

RESPONSIVE READING *from Psalm 91*

Leader: You who live in the shelter of the Most High will say,

People: My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.

Leader: Because you make the Lord your refuge,

People: No evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

Leader: God will command the angels concerning you,

People: To guard you in all your ways.

Leader: On their hands they will bear you up,

People: So that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

Leader: Those who love me, I will deliver.

People: I will protect those who know my name.

Leader: When they call to me, I will answer them.

People: I will be with them in trouble.

Leader: I will rescue them and honor them.

People: With long life I will save them and satisfy them.

*ACT OF PRAISE No. 8 ***From All That Dwell Below the Skies***

Isaac Watts, 1719

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord,

Eternal truth attends thy word! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,

Till suns shall rise and set no more!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 8:1-3 "We Live by the Very Word of the Lord"

ANTHEM "Remember Me" Gene Grier Chancel Choir

With the Congregation "Jesus Remember Me"

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your Kingdom. (Repeat)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:1-13 "Jesus Contends with the Devil in the Wilderness"

SERMON “No Sway, No Way”

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 collection box before or after service.

The sacrifice that pleases the Lord is one of praise, thanksgiving, and kindness.

OFFERTORY **“Jesu, Joy of All Desiring”** J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

*DOXOLOGY

Please note these words for our Lenten doxology today.

Praise God for love we all may share;

Praise God for beauty everywhere;

Praise God for Lenten hopes to be;

Praise God for truth and charity. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dear God we dedicate our ways to your Word our means to your service. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Our communion today is in loving remembrance and eager anticipation.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *to the tune by Sir Arthur Sullivan, 1864*

please see insert

PRAYER OF BLESSING

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR *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.

LAMB OF GOD *to the tune, “Go in Peace”* by Kenneth White, 1982

Please see insert.

LIFTING OF THE PLATE & CUP

We take a moment of silence to recall the joy of giving and receiving the elements.

PRAYER *in unison*

In this season of Lent, O Lord, we recall that Jesus was tempted in every way as we are yet did not sin. By your Spirit, may we triumph over every evil, live no longer unto ourselves but towards you. May our hearts be ready to receive you in each new day, that we may come into the fullness of your grace, and your promise of life everlasting. Amen.

COMMISSIONING & CONNECTING

Send a blessing to your social contacts far and wide.

In a season of Lenten fasting—hold fast to the Living Word of God.

*CLOSING HYMN No. 18 ***Praise to the Living God*** (vs. 2, 3, 4)

*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Adagio”

from **Concerto in C Minor for Cello**

Antonio Vivaldi

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Peter Lutkin, 1900

POSTLUDE

“For All the Saints”

Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906



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.

We do anticipate returning to more open fellowship and food events soon.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Lynnete Beaudro, for prayers of safety during her deployment.

Muriel Beresford, for prayers of strength and health.

Aida Catlow, for prayers of recuperation, healing and well-being.

Peg Mercier, for prayers peace and healing.

Jean Dusty, for a speedy recovery.

Today's Flowers are Dedicated to the Glory of God

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGISTS: **Gordon Wetmore**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Bob & Kathy Boissy, Mike Foster, and Ken Graves**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Alison Wade and Jerry Long**

OUTREACH....HELPING THE PEOPLE of THE UKRAINIAN

The crisis in Ukraine, as we watch citizens painfully deciding to remain or flee, is distressing to witness. We had just established a hands-on connection to provide support to the Afghan people forced to abandon their homeland. Since our Outreach meeting this past Sunday, we are searching and researching for the most effective route for sending contributions for Ukrainian relief.

Once again, organizations in Worcester have put support networks in place for Afghan refugees as they arrive in central Massachusetts. W.A.R.M. (Welcoming Alliance for Refugee Ministry) <https://www.warmwelcoming.org> and The Living Word Church of Worcester are actively providing assistance in so many diverse ways. They provide temporary housing, food and clothing donations, education opportunities equipping them as they adjust to a new culture and community. Our church has already delivered a warm clothing donation, built a working connection and continue to maintain donation boxes in Fellowship Hall, for ongoing contributions. We will adjust our requests as new needs are identified.

As we identify the appropriate recipient for a Ukrainian donation, anyone wanting to contribute can write a check to Original Congregational Church, designating it "The Ukraine Fund". We are considering International Rescue Committee, <https://www.rescue.org>, a well-established disaster relief organization.

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.**

Local Afghan Relief Effort in Worcester

Keeping up with our state's humanitarian response to the Afghan Refugee crisis, we have learned the organization WARM (Welcoming Alliance for Refugee Ministry) of Worcester (info@warmwelcoming.org) is hard at work making a huge difference for locally relocated Afghan families. Partnering with Hope for Worcester and Living Word Church they have seized the opportunity to provide love and care through their work efforts.

On Saturday, February 5th, they prepared apartments for two Afghan families. Meeting together they cleaned, moved furniture and decorated the living spaces. On Wednesday the 9th, donations of food and clothing were collected at the Living Word Church, in hopes of meeting as many needs as possible of resettling refugees. We were able to quickly gather warm wear on short notice for Drop Off on the 9th. A big thank you for such a quick response!

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED

CLOTHING ITEMS NEEDED

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salt - Yeast - Sugar - All-purpose flour - Tuna in the can - Kidney beans - Chick peas - Vegetable oil - Green/black tea - Basmati rice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Black pepper - Garam masala - Turmeric - Cardamom - Cumin - Dried fruits and nuts - Candies (candied almonds or small hard candies) | <p>High quality used or new:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Winter coats - Boots - Shoes - Clothes <p>We need items for both youth and adults, men and women!</p> |
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In order to prepare for another Drive Off date in the future, we would like to begin collections now. A box or two will be placed in the Fellowship Hall designating specific items needed for the cultural preferences of Afghan families. Please consider adding to this collection over the next weeks.

ZIMBABWE SUPPORT

Often, we can be frustrated that we don't always see the effect of donations made to worthy causes. We are so fortunate that our support of the Daisy Dube Children's Home in Zimbabwe is visible. This is possible because of our connection with Connie Littlefield and her amazing work in Zimbabwe. If you are interested in reading a summary of work accomplished, pick up a copy of her report on the table in the church library.

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