



The Original Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Sunday, March 20th, 2022 10am  
Third Sunday of Lent  
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

PRELUDE “It Might as Well be Spring” *from State Fair, 1945* Rodgers & Hammerstein

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: Come, let us seek the Lord together.

**People: Our soul searches for God’s steadfast love.**

Leader: Let us open ourselves to receive the grace of God.

**People: Just as we are, we present ourselves to the Lord.**

\*OPENING HYMN No. 410 *Just as I Am* All verses

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 PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Hymn No. 220*

*We take time to pray in word, song, and silence*

Leader: Friends in faith, our Lord is the everlasting source of life. With confidence in God’s steadfast love, we now open our hearts to the Spirit. We ask for compassion in our weakness, healing for our wounds, and forgiveness of our sins. Let us enter into prayer.

Leader: Creator God, you drive us into the wilderness of temptation and sin and ask us to live by your Word alone. Breathe new life into us for we have resisted you and fallen away from your path.

**People: Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what thou dost love and do what thou wouldst do.**

\*All who are able please stand

(1)

Leader: Redeeming God, you attend to us with your angels and the life-giving gifts of creation. We confess we turn away from your words, reject your will, and our hearts are hardened, causing harm and hurtfulness.

**People: Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,  
Until with thee I will one will to do and to endure.**

Leader: Sustaining God, you send us into a world of joy and sorrow, pain and delight, in order to share with all people and all creatures your covenant of life. We confess we have forgotten the promise of life you made with all you created, and we feel ashamed.

**People: Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,  
Until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.**

#### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Dear beloved of God, there is no failing our Savior cannot save us from. There is no wound in our soul that the Spirit cannot mend in us. There is no lostness so profound that our Lord's love cannot find us. Hear this good news and make it your own: By God's grace we are found, we are forgiven, we healed, and we are made alive to be with God now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

#### RESPONSIVE READING *from Psalm 63*

Leader: O God, you are my God, I seek you.

**People: My soul thirsts for you as in a dry and weary land.**

Leader: I have looked upon you in the sanctuary.

**People: I behold your power and glory.**

Leader: Your steadfast love is better than life.

**People: So I will bless you as long as I live.**

Leader: I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

**People: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast.**

Leader: I meditate on you in the watches of the night.

**People: In the shadow of your wings, I sing for joy.**

Leader: My soul clings to you.

**People: In your hands, you uphold me.**

#### \*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 55:3-9 "Return to the Lord for Mercy"

#### ANTHEM

#### **"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"**

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Raymond Haan Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:1-9 “The Parable of Bearing Fruitfulness”

SERMON “In the Shadow of Your Wings”

\*HYMN No. 72 **“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”** *Vs. 3 & 4*

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind;  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God’s word;  
And our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.

\*HYMN No. 473 **“O Jesus, I have Promised”** *Vs. 2 & 3*

O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee,  
That where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;  
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

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

Let us join in the abundance of our Lord in presenting our God gifts!

OFFERTORY **“I Have Loved You with an Everlasting Love”**

*from* Jeremiah 3:31 – Michael Joncas    Monica Wagner, soloist

\*DOXOLOGY No. 44

**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 gifts and our service to your glory! Amen.

\*COMMISSIONING & CONNECTING

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

In the mercy of the Lord there is always a way!

\*CLOSING HYMN No. 102      *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

\*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE      **“Who’ll be a Witness?”**  
Traditional Spiritual

\*POSTLUDE                      **Prelude in C minor**                      J. S. Bach



Thank you for being in worship with us this morning!  
We are glad to welcome you to the OCC.  
Please join us for conversation and light refreshments after worship.  
May the Lord watch over you as we journey through Lent together

## 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.

**The family of Rob Crossley**, for the birth of Two new Grandchildren: Brody, born 3/3/2022 7lbs 15oz to daughter Helen and husband Greg Dicomitis, and Raymond, born 2/17/2022 to son Rich Crossley and Erica.

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

THANK YOU TO TODAY’S LITURGISTS: **Walter Spencer**

THANK YOU TO TODAY’S USHERS: **Leesa Burke, Jane Claffey, Alice Gero, and Lesley Whittemore**

THANK YOU TO TODAY’S COUNTERS: **Leesa Burke and Jane Claffey**

**PANCAKES FOR PEACE- Palm Sunday Breakfast - April 10th.** This fantastic brunch features pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit, juice, milk, coffee and tea. There is no charge, but there will be a freewill offering to support the relief efforts of the International Rescue Committee who provides care for the Ukrainian refugees. We will need a head count, so Please sign up outside Fellowship Hall.

**THE OCC WOMEN'S BREAKFAST** group has resumed meeting for breakfast at 9:00am, at the Plainville Griddle in Plainville. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday's of each month. If there is a 5th Thursday, we will also meet. The next two meetings are March 24th and March 31st. All are welcome!!

## **OUTREACH....HELPING THE PEOPLE of THE UKRAINE**

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.

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.**

## **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.

**THE ORIGINAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**1 East St. P.O. Box 657, Wrentham, MA 02093**

**Office: 508-384-3110 Website: [www.occhurch.net](http://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**

