



**The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, March 27th, 2022 10am
Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

“There’s Hope”

India Arie (2006)

It doesn't cost a thing to smile, you don't have to pay to laugh, you better thank God for that.

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP **“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”**

arr. Dan Edwards Wrentham wRingers

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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

GATHERING OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

All Little Ones are invited with Teachers and Helpers to Sunday School.

*OPENING HYMN No. 192 ***My Song is Love Unknown*** Vs. 1, 2 & 5

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 *singing Hymn No. 464*

We take time to pray in word, song and silence

Friends in faith, the Lord invites us into the House of Love. Our need for mercy is great. Our appeal is to the One who counts not our trespasses against us but welcomes us home with open arms. Let us lift up our confessions to the Lord in the Spirit of Prayer.

Creator God, you gave us life and blessed us with all we need. We confess we became focused on what we lack. Our hearts grew hard in relation to others. We began to continually curse the problems in the world instead of praising your goodness and mercy. Forgive us, O Lord.

***All who are able please stand**

(1)

**Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord to thee;
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

Redeemer God, softly and tenderly you call us to come home to you. We confess we have doubted your love for us, and we rejected you. We began to follow our own will and not your yours. We measured success in amounts rather than letting love be our leader. Forgive us, O Lord.

**Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne**

Sustainer God, all along you tell us, “You are my beloved, you are always with me, all that is mine is yours.” We confess we have withheld this generous love towards others. We have resisted welcoming the lost back into the fold. Open our hearts. Forgive us, O Lord, in your mercy.

**Take my love: my Lord I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Dearly beloved of God, the Lord is the source of all life and blessing. God never stops rejoicing in our return. When we ask for pardon, grace is given. When we pray for forgiveness, mercy is measured out in infinite ways. Happy are those who confide in the Lord. Their sins are no more.

People: Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING *from Psalm 32*

Leader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven.

People: Happy are those whose sin is covered.

Leader: While I kept silence my body wasted away.

People: Day and night your hand was heavy upon me.

Leader: Then I acknowledged my sin to you.

People: I did not hide my iniquity.

Leader: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.”

People: And you forgave me all my sins.

Leader: Therefore, let who are faithful offer prayer to you.

People: Preserve us from trouble.

Leader: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous ones.

People: Shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

*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

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 “The Ministry of Reconciliation”

ANTHEM

“Poor Wayfarin’ Stranger” (2003)
Bob Burroughs Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 “The Parable of the Prodigal Son”

SERMON “Ye Who are Weary—Come Home”

*HYMN No. 303 *Softly and Tenderly* 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

We give in God’s House that others may come home by faith.

OFFERTORY **“What Wondrous Love is This”**

arr. Arnold Sherman Wrentham wRingers

*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

Dear God, direct our gifts in ways that softly and tenderly call loving words and graceful acts into being. In your name, we pray. Amen.

*COMMISSIONING & CONNECTING

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

Hope in the Lord whose love has no end.

*CLOSING HYMNS

No. 605 *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* Vs. 1 & 2

No. 603 *He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought* Vs. 1

*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“I Will Arise”

Joseph Hart (America, 1759) arr. Peter Amidon

*POSTLUDE **“The Great Gate of Kyiv”** *from Pictures at an Exhibition* -

Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1881)

Sue Wetmore & Jean Roche, bells

The War: Day 39; Dead 14,000; Displaced 10,000,000



Thank you for being in worship with us this morning!

We are glad to welcome you to the OCC.

Please join us for coffee and refreshments in our Fellowship Hall.

May the Lord watch over you as we journey through Lent together

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.

Aida Catlow, for prayers of peace and strength.

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: **Beth Lacroix**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Pam Jennette, Trevor Knott, Joan Mello,
And Gordon Wetmore**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Trevor Knott and Joan Mello**

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 Thursdays 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.

SPRING CLEAN UP.... Join us with your work gloves, rakes, leaf bags or tarps on Saturday, April 16th, starting at 8:30am, for our annual Spring clean- up of the grounds of the OCC. Any amount of time you can give is welcomed.

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, TVs, computers, large stereos, or large furniture.** Do not bring **books** (unless they are in pristine condition),

ONA UPDATE RE: OPEN FORUM III, TBA
Save the Date: ONA Open Forum III, Sunday, April 24th



Open Forum III will be held after the church service on Sunday, April 24th (yes, the Sunday after Easter)! Charlie Oliver of Second Congregational Church in Attleboro will share with us what his church experienced after it joined the ONA Coalition some years ago. If time permits, after Charlie has spoken and answered questions, there will be an open discussion of ONA matters. The ONA Team hopes to see you all on the 24th.

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