



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, May 1st, 2022 10am
Third Sunday of Lent
Outside Weather Permitting
Special Musical Guest Southern Rail Blue Grass Band

Order of Worship

OPENING MUSIC

**“Walk Your Way to Heaven”
“High Low and Wide”**

Jim Muller
Lucy Millender

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: Let us gather around the one who calls us home.

People: God awakens us and restores our souls.

Leader: The good shepherd invites us on new adventures.

People: The Spirit leads our spirits to new discoveries.

Leader: The Lord shines a light through the darkest valleys.

People: Springs of living water refresh us on our way.

Leader: Come let us journey with the Creator together.

People: We rejoice to lift up our voice in prayer and praise.

READING OF PSALM 23 “The Lord is My Shepherd”

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*HYMN No. 360

I Love to Tell the Story

All may sing along.

*All who are able please stand

(1)

GATHERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray together.

All: Dear God, we love to tell the story of your love. For those things that are unseen and for those things we know for sure, we give you thanks for all the wonders of your love. Receive us this day with all our worries and concerns. Point us to those larger truths beyond our own knowledge. Broaden our horizons that we may live boldly, turning our fears into faith, our time into great occasions for love and beauty. 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.

MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

“Love Without End, Amen” Aaron Barker
“Children Go Where I Send Thee” Traditional

SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERS

SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:11-16 “Jesus the Good Shepherd”

SERMON “When Love Leads”

SONG **“The Only Bible”** Katie Brooks / Terri Corker

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 present our God gifts with love and joy!

OFFERTORY **“Cold Frosty Morning”**
Butch Baldassari & David Schnauffer

*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.**

Welcome to the OCC!

We are so glad to have you join us for a wonderful music Sunday service today. Please join us for light refreshments following the service, and to greet members of *Southern Rail*.

Southern Rail's music is upbeat, high voltage Bluegrass, featuring stunning instrumentals, powerful gospel quartets, and a world of onstage fun. Two of the band's members, guitarist Jim Muller and bassist Sharon Horovitch, were recently inducted, by the Rhode Island Bluegrass Alliance, into the Bluegrass Hall of Fame.

To find out more about Southern Rail, visit www.SouthernRail.com.

The group can also be reached at SouthernRail.bluegrassband@gmail.com.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Lynnete Beaudro, for prayers of safety during her deployment.

Muriel Beresford, for prayers of strength and health.

Peg Mercier, for prayers peace and healing.

Jean Dusty, for a speedy recovery.

Les Burch, for strength in healing.

Cindy Peters, for prayers of healing.

Bill Fuller, for prayers of strength and healing.

The family of Aida Catlow, for prayers upon her passing. A service for Aida will be held Saturday, May 14th at 11am in the OCC Sanctuary. A collation will be immediately following in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Muriel Beresford, for prayers of strength and wellness. Muriel is in Sturdy Memorial Hospital and is taking visitors, one at a time, during Covid precautions.

Today's Flowers are Dedicated to the Glory of God

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Ralph Lambalot, Steven Becker, Jerry Long** **Leesa Burke, Jean Roche and Gordon Wetmore**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Joan Mello and Beth Lacroix**

The 2022 SPRING YARD SALE will be held on May 21 from 8 am to noon.

DONATIONS ARE STILL NEEDED. Donations may be dropped off in the Vestry starting January 7, 2022. 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.**

UKRAINE SUPPORT ... It seems realistic that the war in Ukraine will be with us for quite a while into this year. Thankfully, we have identified several ways we can support the Ukrainian people as they struggle to maintain their homeland.

The Outreach Team has chosen the IRC (International Rescue Committee) to receive our “Ukraine Relief” donations. An initial donation of \$2000 was sent to them in March. The IRC has been helping displaced people for the past 90 years. Their work began in Germany as German citizens began to flee the tyranny of Adolf Hitler. Since then, they have responded by helping people affected by humanitarian crises to survive, recover and rebuild their lives. The IRC has stood with people in some of the toughest places on Earth, including Yemen, Syria and Somalia.

We will continue to accept donations from the congregation as long as the need is there. Checks can be made out to the Original Congregational Church, with Ukraine in the memo.

WELCOME TO THE CARD TABLE AT COFFEE HOUR!

We were thrilled to see many of you stopped by the Card Table March 27th to jot a quick note to some of our members who are at home for various reasons.

Will do this again on May 22nd. If you have any “thinking of you” cards or get well cards that you would like to bring, please do. We do have a card ministry that Becky Cuoco has been doing for some time. She sends cards every month. If you have any extra cards that Becky could use, please put in an envelope, mark for Becky Cuoco and put them in the Pastoral Care basket in the Church Library. This is one of the many Pastoral Care Ministries here at OCC. We also have the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Elves, the Lunch Bunch, the Prayer Chain, to name a few. Please speak to Pearl Gottberg or Sue Schwarm if you are interested in joining.

ONA UPDATE



If you have already replied to Monday's on-line one question ONA Survey, many thanks! If you have not, please do so at your earliest convenience. The deadline for responses is **Tuesday, May 3rd**. Thank you for participating, The ONA Task Team



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
