**The Original Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

 **Sunday, May 29th, 2022 10am**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Memorial Day Weekend**

 *Order of Worship*

PRELUDE **“Come Ready and See Me”** Richard Hundley

 Lorri Cetto, soprano Emma Newton, piano

 “Come ready and see me no matter how late… for the years are running out”

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: From every mountaintop, let freedom ring.

**People: From every chorus, let liberty sing.**

Leader: In the beauty of the skies, comes a heavenly song.

**People: In the heart of worship, God’s love lingers long.**

\*HYMN No. 531 ***My Country, ‘Tis of Thee***  *Vs. 1 & 4*

\*HYMN No. 532 ***O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*** *Vs. 1 & 4*

GATHERING PRAYER

Leader: From sea to shining sea, from every mountain and through every valley, may the glory of the Lord be known in the land. Gracious God, we rejoice in your heavenly Spirit that lifts our spirits. In this world of wars and strife, in this world of loss and grief, we look to you to bring to our remembrance all that you told us about love. May your love come and dwell with us. 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**

 ( 1 )

RESPONSIVE READING *from Isaiah 55*

Leader: Seek the Lord while God is near us.

**People: Return to the Lord that we may receive compassion.**

Leader: Our God will abundantly pardon our sin.

**People: For the thoughts of the Lord are higher than our ways.**

Leader: For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace.

**People: The mountains and the hills before you,**

Leader: Shall break forth into singing,

**People: And all the trees shall clap their hands.**

Leader: Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress.

**People: Instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle.**

Leader: And it shall make a name for the Lord,

**People: An everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.**

\*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

Philippians 1:3-11 “Thanksgiving in Remembrance of You”

ANTHEM **“I Will Not Leave You Comfortless”**  Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)

SCRIPTURE READING

John 17:20-26 “So that Your Love Be in Them”

SERMON “No Greater Love”

\*HYMN No. 535 ***Eternal Father, Strong to Save*** *Vs. 2 & 3*

RITE OF REMEMBRANCE

*W*e *remember in word, music and prayer.*

\*HYMNS OF REMEMBRANCE

***Blest Be the Tie that Binds***

We share each other’s woes, each other’s burdens bear,

And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain,

But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

***Nearer My God, to Thee***

There let the way appear, steps unto heaven;

All that thou sendest me in mercy giv’n;

Angels to beckon me nearer my God, to thee,

Nearer my God, to thee, nearer to thee.

 ( 2 )

RESPONSIVE READING with Tolling of the Bells

*Poetry by William Shakespeare, Saint Paul and Mary Elisabeth Frye*

Leader: Fear no more the heat o’ the sun,

**People: Nor the furious winter’s rages;**

Leader: Thou thy worldly task hast done,

**People: Home art gone, and taken thy wages.**

Leader: If God be for us,

**People: Who can be against us?**

Leader: For I am certain of this:

**People: Neither death nor life, will come between us and the love of God.**

Leader: Do not stand at my grave and weep,

**People: I am not there, I do not sleep.**

Leader: Do not stand at my grave and cry,

**People: I am not there. I did not die.**

Leader: Now cracks the noble heart. Good night sweet ones.

**People: And may flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.**

PRAYERS OF REMEBRANCE (repeated three times)

Leader: Dear God, we lift our prayers to you this day in remembrance of…

Leader: O Lord, hear our prayer.

**People: May their memory be a blessing.**

CHOIR ANTHEM **“God So Loved the World”**

Sir John Stainer Chancel Choir

CLOSING TOLL OF THE BELL

CALL TO OFFERING & SERVICE

Let us return our gifts to God with praise and thanksgiving.

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY No. 49

**Your name we bless, O risen Lord,**

**And sing today with one accord.**

**The life laid down, the life restored;**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dear God may all our giving be in remembrance of your great love. Amen.

 ( 3 )

\*COMMISSIONING & CONNECTING

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

This is our prayer and this is our song: in peace may all earth’s people draw together and learn to live as one. Amen.

 \*CLOSING HYMN No. 515 ***This is My Song*** *Vs. 1 & 2*

\*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE **“May the Road Rise Up to Meet You”**

 An Irish Blessing

\*POSTLUDE

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Thank you for joining us for worship on this Memorial Day Weekend.

Today we are remembering our loved ones, those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in serving the nation, and the over one million citizens who

 have lost their lives during the pandemic.

May God bless you and your loved ones on this holiday.

Next week is Pentecost, the Celebration Day of the Christian Church, please wear the color red to join in the spirit of the festivities!

**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.

**Les Burch**, for continued strength and wellness.

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

THANK YOU TO TODAY’S LITURGISTS: **Barbara Ligon**

THANK YOU TO TODAY’S USHERS**: Pam Jennette, Mike Foster, Joan Mello**

THANK YOU TO TODAY’S COUNTERS: **Ralph Lambalot and Joan Mello**

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**SPECIAL MEETING, JUNE 5, 2022**

There will be a Special Meeting of the Original Congregational Church on **Sunday, June 5, 2022, immediately following the worship service in the Sanctuary**.

A vote will be taken at this meeting on a motion that the Original Congregational Church accept the ONA Covenant/Welcoming Statement, and that the Original Congregational Church join the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ.

All are welcome to attend, but only members of the Original Congregational Church may

vote.

****   **ONA**

Here are the final results of the ONA Survey regarding the ONA Covenant and Welcoming Statement (printed below): **Yes 93, No 0, Abstentions 3**.Many thanks to all who took part in the Survey, and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting on June 5th.

The ONA Covenant

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.

The ONA Welcoming Statement

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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