



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, July 31, 2022 9:30am
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

“There’s Hope”

India Arie

WELCOME 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 away and rest for a while. Leave behind your busyness to be fully present to God.

People: We have come for relief from life’s turmoil. God gathers us as a shepherd gathers her sheep.

Leader: God’s steadfast love surrounds us here. We are reminded of God’s enduring faithfulness.

People: This is God’s house, and we are God’s children. God invites us to feel at home in this place.

Leader: We have a covenant with our Creator. This is a time for renewal of our promises.

People: God calls for righteousness and justice. God offers us goodness and mercy all our days.†

OPENING HYMN “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine”

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine,
O what a foretaste of glory divine.
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain] This is my story, this is my song;
Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song;
Praising my Savior all the day long.

(Continued on next page)

***All who are able please stand**

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blessed.
Watching and waiting, looking above;
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. [Refrain]

GATHERING PRAYER

We praise you, O God, for the meaning that you give to our lives through the Spirit and our covenant with you. It is the sign of your deep and everlasting love for the world, and we rejoice in your promise to sustain us. We praise you for filling our emptiness with goodness and mercy. May our worship and praise express our thanks, O God, for your gift to us of Your Son and the salvation You offer through Him. Open our hearts and our minds this morning to You that we may become Your servants in this world, carrying your grace to all that we meet. This we pray in Christ's name who taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER (in Unison)

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 READING (adapted from Psalm 29)

Leader: When the storms rise, O Lord you are with us.

People: The storm comes with wind and rain and lightning and fear.

Leader: It bends the cedars of Lebanon and strips the forest bare;

People: The strength of the Lord pours over us.

Leader: The sounds thunder and shake the wilderness of Kadesh;

People: The calling of the Lord is heard in all the temples.

Leader: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood, wind, thunder and all things;

People: We sense the power of the Lord in many ways.

Leader: The one God overall knows us and hears our cries;

People: We come before you in wonder and in awe.

Leader: God of many names - we praise your Holy name;

**All: The Lord will give strength to His people;
the Lord will bless His people with peace.**

GLORIA PATRI

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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SCRIPTURES

HEBREW BIBLE READING Hos 11:1-11

ANTHEM

“The Lord is Kind and Merciful”

Jeanne Cott

Monica Wagner, soloist

GOSPEL READING Mt 22:1-14

SERMON “Judgment, Repentance and the Fires of Gehenna”

Rev William Main

Leader: Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn. If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

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People: If I say, “Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night,” Even the darkness is not dark to You, and the night is as bright as the day.

All: Darkness and light are alike to You, and You lead me in the everlasting way.

*HYMN SING:

HYMN No. 493 *In the Bulb There is a Garden*

HYMN No. 610 *Sweet Hour of Prayer*

HYMN No. 592 *Leaning on the Everlasting Lord*

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

We come to this place because we know we are loved and blessed by God. We come also that our spirits maybe enlivened by the presence of God through one another. We are able to come to this place because those who sat here before us, set apart their time, their energy, their talent and their treasure to create and maintain this place. It is our turn, not just for us but for all the future us yet to come. God gifts us with nourishment, we in turn share those gifts that others may be nourished. Our morning gifts shall now be given and received.

OFFERTORY

“Home”

BJ Pridham & Israel Houghton

DOXOLOGY

We lift our hearts in grateful prayer;

Our gifts we offer and to share;

The answer to our every need;

To walk with you, our God indeed.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*COMMISSIONING & CONNECTING

We may send a blessing on our social media and contacts far and wide...

Who are we following when we are not following God's Word and commandments?

Yet... "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8)

*CLOSING HYMN No. 206 **"Lord of the Dance"** *V.s. 1 & 5*

SPOKEN BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"I want to walk like a child of the Light, I want to follow Jesus"

Kathleen Thomerson

† Parts from *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler, ©1996 The Pilgrim Press. Used by permission; all rights reserved.

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Thank you to Reverend William Main for leading us in worship today!

Thank you for being in worship with us this morning!

We are glad to welcome you to the OCC.

May all the gifts of the Spirit bless you in your faith journey!

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Lynnete Beaudro, for prayers of comfort and safety during her deployment.

Peg Mercier, for prayers of peace and continued healing.

Les Burch, for continued progress, strength and wellness.

Jean Dusty, needing thoughts and prayers for healing.

Today's Flowers are Dedicated to the Glory of God

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGISTS: **Judy MacCormack**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Kim Kelly**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Mike Foster and Jerry Long**

WE AGAIN THANK REV. BILL MAIN, for being our guest Pastor July 24th and July 31st..

"GROW THE OCC"....Ideas are in bloom with our new **"Grow the OCC"** group, as it works on ways to grow our church and bring active church life back after the pandemic. Ideas, thus far, include: creating an atmosphere of welcome (visuals in the church such as signage and bulletin boards, social and digital media, greeting and welcoming new folks), planning new events, increasing community involvement (such as Wrentham Day and upcoming Wrentham 350th anniversary), and supporting our Christian education and youth. Check out our bulletin board (coming soon) with more details and ways to get involved. We can all help as our group expands and becomes even more active in September. We welcome all to join in and help us grow the OCC!

GINGERBREAD FAIR....

Please see the newest Website postings for updates about the November 19, 2022 Gingerbread Fair, or if you prefer, copies of the posting are on the information table outside of the library.

The office will be on summer hours, **Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00am-3:00pm, from July 4th thru September 6th.**

SUMMER VACATION

Pastor Ken is on vacation and will return to worship on Sunday August 7. While he is away visiting four precious granddaughters in Vermont and New York, pastoral coverage for emergencies is available. Please be in contact with Donna in the office and Pearl Gottberg.

THE OCC WOMEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP will be taking a break during the month of August. We will resume meeting at The Village Griddle in Plainville in September on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays.



The 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.

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.**

Voted upon and approved by the OCC on June 5, 2022

Portions adapted from Bethany Church, Foxboro, MA, and United Church, Walpole, MA.