



The Original Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, 9:30am  
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

***Welcome to the OCC  
A Positive Possibilities Place***

*Order of Worship*

PRELUDE:                   **“Overjoyed”**                   Stevland Hardaway Morris (Stevie Wonder)

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

Leader: To the Creator of all the Days,

**People: We lift up our thanks and praise.**

Leader: To the Source of all Glory,

**People: We worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth.**

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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

\*OPENING HYMN No. 404       ***Love Divine, All Loves Excelling***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray together.

**All: Gracious God, you set before us all our days. We confess that the powers that devastate and bring decay impact our faithfulness. Forgive us for our unbelief. Reenergize us so that we may see your glory that is now being revealed. In our struggle to thrive, may no force uproot us from your love for us in Christ Jesus our Savior, we pray. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE

Leader: Let us receive words of God's blessed assurance.

All who are led by the Spirit are the children of God. In God, no child is considered of least concern or of no concern. All of creation longs to be redeemed in God's love. Know that our sins are forgiven. We are set free from all that diminishes us. In the Spirit, our dreams are enlarged, our understanding is vastly increased, and our love is truly unbound. We live as God's children.

**People: Praise be to the Lord of Life and Love. Amen.**

**\* All who are able, please stand**

( 1 )

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 READING *from Psalm 139*

Leader: God, you search my deepest places.

**People: You know how to shepherd me from afar.**

Leader: You know all my roads.

**People: Wondrous beyond words is your knowledge.**

Leader: Where could I go from your eternal presence?

**People: If I rise to heaven, you are there.**

Leader: If I lie down in the depths, you are there.

**People: Even darkness is as light to you.**

Leader: If I take the wings of sunrise to the western shore,

**People: Even there, you greet me and guide me.**

Leader: Before I was knit together,

**People: You created the days that were shaped for me.**

Leader: All of this is written in your Book of Life.

**People: Turn me from sadness to walk in the path of eternal life.**

\*ACT OF PRAISE No. 36

Words: 3<sup>rd</sup> Century; Music: 1851

**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

Romans 8:18-25 "All Creation Hopes to Be Set Free"

MUSIC

**"Spirit of the Living God"**

Daniel Iverson and Lowell Alexander      Monica Yohn, soprano

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 "The Parable of Weeds in the Wheat"

SERMON "For the Conductor of the Eternal Symphony"

\*HYMN No. 493

***In the Bulb There Is a Flower***

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is with us.

**People: Christ is in our midst.**

Leader: Let us pray.

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING & SERVICE

Leader: God is calling us to become cocreators of Christ's church.

**People: With joy, we present our gifts to God.**

Leader: In the Spirit is revealed the coming glory of the Lord.

**People: We return to God our sacrifices with anticipation.**

OFFERTORY      "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"      Traditional

\*DOXOLOGY No. 44      Words: 1674; Music: 1551

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise him above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: Thank you, O Lord, for all your great gifts.

**People: We pray that our strength lends strength to others.**

Leader: We dedicate our offering, O Lord, to your work.

**People: May all who receive of the Spirit be blessed! Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF SENDING & COMMISSIONING

*We rejoice in the work to share our faith and grow the church of Christ!*

Leader: The Lord is calling us forth!

**People: Into the world we will share our faith!**

Leader: O Lord, bless us on our way forward.

**People: Show us the way to serve one another well.**

Leader: Create us to be your caring community of grace.

**People: Your Spirit is at work in our hearts.**

Leader: Make us to be a positive possibilities place.

**People: Your Spirit is at work in our outreach.**

Leader: God bless our church to grow in your presence.

**All: We take delight in the days you have set before us! Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN No. 95      *Be Still, My Soul*

\*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE      "How High the Moon"      Morgan Lewis



Thank you for being in worship with us this morning.  
We are glad to welcome you to the OCC.  
Please enjoy refreshments and conversation here in the hall  
immediately following the service.  
May God direct your steps to find rest, rejuvenation, and renewal  
this summer season!

## **LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

### **IN OUR PRAYERS...**

**Lynnete Beaudro**, in our prayers of safety in Qatar.

**Peg Mercier**, for prayers of peace and health.

**Mary Williams**, for healing and recovery.

*Today's Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God*

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGIST: **Jen Chace**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Bob and Kathy Boissy**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Bob Boissy and Bob Casavant**

**TODAY PLEASE WELCOME JOE GODFREY**, as our musical guest.

Joe is a pianist and educator in southern New England. Joe teaches piano for the RI Philharmonic and Music School, the Rhody Center, and privately. He is comfortable in a range of genres, including rock, R&B, jazz, pop, and classical. Thank you for being with us today, Joe!

### **SPECIAL GUEST PASTOR ...Next Week July 30th!**

We are pleased to announce that next week we will enjoy a very special guest pastor. Rev. G.W. Blake Blakesley will be leading us in worship while Pastor Ken visits family in Rochester, NY. Pastor Blake is the father of our very own Ben Blakesley and is recently relocated to the area. Pastor Blake is a retired Presbyterian minister and enjoys sharing his musical gifts as well. Come and meet Pastor Blake!

**MIKE FOSTER** is looking for someone to help him approach local businesses about donations to the auction, which will be part of the Church Mouse Fair. Most of those businesses are pleased to donate every year, so the process is easy. Please contact Mike if you are interested in helping.

## **ZIMBABWE BOXES ARE OUT**

**If you are able to assist in filling the boxes for Zimbabwe, please check below for items needed. Thank you so much for your support.**

Boxes have been labeled to help organize our collection. Lists of requested items are available there near the assembled boxes.

Essentially, the categories are:

- Gently used clothing for children and infants, including new socks and underwear, shoes in good condition
- Women's and men's clothing, including new bras and men's suits and ties
- School supplies; backpacks, pens, pencils, paper, chalk and rulers
- Art supplies, reading books and preschool puzzles
- Medical supplies; pain relievers, antibiotic ointment, gauze and bandage supplies
- Eyeglasses, toothbrushes, soap and sanitary supplies
- Sewing supplies; fabric, thread, zippers, scissors, sewing needles
- Bedding supplies; sheets, blankets, towels and tote bags
- Sheltering Arms; double size sheets and towels, plates, pots and pans, cutlery and recipe books
- Tools; pliers, tape measures, tool boxes, helmets

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS through AUGUST 27th.** are Tuesday and Thursday from 9am-3pm.



We are an Open and Affirming Church  
of the United Church of Christ.

In 1 John 3:7 we hear, "Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God. God is love and those who abide in love abide in God, there is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out all fear." The OCC is a creative, caring community that welcomes everyone as a beloved child of God.

We are so glad to welcome you to the OCC!

### **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: Justin Kisch**

**Bells Director: Martha Goodman**

**Sextons: Bob & Sandy Cummings Office Administrator: Donna Charbatji**