



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, July 16th, 2023, 10:00am
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship

PRELUDE **“Impromptu in A-Flat, Op. 142, No. 2”** Franz Schubert

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: Let us lift up our praise to the living God!

People: The God of Love and Light sets the worlds in flight!

Leader: Let us lift up our praise to the living God!

People: The God of the Way, O Source and Goal of life!

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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

*OPENING HYMN No. 18 ***Praise to the Living God***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray together.

All: Holy God, you make the rain to fall and the seeds to rise from the earth. We rejoice in the beauty of your Creation. We confess that we too become like rocky soil that is hard to break open and sustain your words of faith. Forgive us our unbelief. Attend to our hearts and amend our soul so that we are fully ready to receive you and let faith grow in us. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE

Leader: Receive now these words of blessed assurance.

In the beginning we live into our needs for water, food, and shelter. As we transition into responsible beings we live, not for the body, but for the Spirit. Know that all our sins, which begin in our body, are forgiven in Christ, the One who opens us to everlasting light from God in Heaven.

People: Praise be the source of love and life. 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.

RESPONSIVE READING *from Psalm 119*

Leader: Your word is a lamp to my feet;

People: A light to my path.

Leader: I am severely afflicted.

People: Give me life according to your word.

Leader: Accept my offerings of praise.

People: Teach me your ordinances.

Leader: Your decrees are my heritage forever.

People: Your words are the joy of my heart.

Leader: I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever.

People: You are my hiding place and my shield.

Leader: I hope in your word.

People: Hold me up that I may be safe in your steadfast love.

*ACT OF PRAISE No. 36

Words: 3rd 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 8:1-5 “Set Your Mind on the Things of the Spirit”

MUSIC

“Come Down, O Love Divine” Bianco da Siena, R. Vaughan Williams

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 “The Parable of Sowing Seeds”

SERMON “Soil in Transition”

*HYMN No. 403

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is with us.

People: Christ is in our midst.

Leader: Let us pray.

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING & SERVICE

OFFERTORY **“We Plow the Field and Scatter”** Johann Schulz

*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

*PRAYER OF SENDING & COMMISSIONING

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

*CLOSING HYMN No. 617 ***Wonderful Words of Life***

*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE **"Prelude in G"** Justin Kisch



We welcome you to the OCC this morning!
Thank you for sharing a portion of your Sabbath Day with us.
Please stay for refreshments and conversation here in the hall immediately
following the service.
May God watch over this summer season and grant you rest, delight, and peace.

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: Justin Kisch

Bells Director: Martha Goodman

Sextons: Bob & Sandy Cummings Office Administrator: Donna Charbatji

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: **Jerry Long**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Leesa Burke & Heather Castello**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Leesa Burke & Jane Claffey**

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS TODAY through AUGUST 27th.

The office will begin summer hours and be open Tuesday and Thursday from 9am-3pm.

Kitchen Elves, Lunch Bunch and Bible Study will take the usual summer break and resume in September.



We are an Open and Affirming congregation
affiliated with the United Church of Christ

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.

ZIMBABWE BOXES ARE OUT

Finally, the boxes are set up and labeled for donations. We are focusing our donation efforts for The Daisy Dube Childrens Home and Sheltering Arms. The Childrens Home provides a safe space for orphans and abandoned children through our United Church of Christ affiliates in Zimbabwe. Upon aging out of the Childrens Home, youth are given the opportunity to train for a trade at the Sheltering Arms. Following this path can provide an opportunity to continue to thrive in an otherwise harsh environment.

Thanks to our New Hampshire friend, Connie Littlefield and her many African contacts, a shipping crate will leave Rochester, New Hampshire on **August 16th** and begin its journey to Mozambique Africa.

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