



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, August 6th, 2023, 9:30am
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Welcome to the OCC
A Positive Possibilities Place*

Order of Service

PRELUDE **“Open Our Eyes, Lord”** Robert Cull

GREETING

Leader: Grace and Peace to you in the name of the One who is and who was and who is to come, the Lord Almighty!

People: And may our joy be made complete in our fellowship of faith! Amen.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Announcements are made for the good of the parish.

*HYMN No. 111 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray together.

All: Holy God, you are the Lord of Creation. All life looks to you. Hear our prayers today. In our fears we hesitate to come into your presence. We confess that we doubt your power to heal our wounds and to make miracles happen. Forgive us our unbelief. Show us the way to share the abundance of all your good gifts through our worship and work. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

We offer a moment of silence in our hearts before God in worship.

ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear now the blessed gift of assurance.

This is the great Good News of the possibilities of God. Our Lord looks to heaven and turns five loaves and two fish into thousands of servings. By faith, miracles are in every moment. In Christ's love and tender care, our sins are forgiven. In God's mercy, our spirits are mended, and our souls are nourished. In God's realm, there is more than enough love to go around to all!

People: Praise be to the Lord of Life!

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

(1)

RESPONSIVE PSALM *from Psalm 17*

Leader: Hear a just cause, O Lord, attend to my cry.

People: Give ear to my prayer, free of deceit.

Leader: From you let my vindication come.

People: Let your eyes see the right.

Leader: If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,

People: If you test me, you will find no wickedness.

Leader: I have avoided the ways of the violent.

People: My steps have held fast to your paths.

Leader: My feet have not slipped.

People: I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God.

Leader: Wondrously show your steadfast love to those who seek.

People: When I awake, I shall be satisfied beholding your likeness.

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

Genesis 32:22-31 “Jacob Wrestles with God”

MUSIC **“Be Thou My Vision”** Traditional, translated Eleanor Hull

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:13-21 “The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes”

SERMON “Blessed and Broken”

*HYMN No. 612 ***Open My Eyes, That I May See***

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is with us.

People: Christ is in our midst.

Leader: Let us pray.

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

Leader: When God enjoins us,

People: We are never the same.

Leader: Let us return our blessings to the Lord.

People: We give to God our thanks and praise.

OFFERTORY **“Softly and Tenderly”** Will Thompson

(2)

*DOXOLOGY No. 44 Words: Thomas Ken 1674; Music: Bourgeois 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: Dear God, receive our offering of love and service.

People: Bless these gifts to enact your healing power.

Leader: Provide us with the presence of your Holy Spirit.

People: Turn all our resources into sources of your joy! Amen.

***COMMUNION HYMN No. 311**

Let Us Break Bread Together

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive at the Lord's Table!

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SANCTUS *unison or sung see insert*

Holy, Holy, Holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the Highest!

CONSECRATION

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.

LAMB OF GOD *or sung see insert*

Leader: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world:

People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world:

People: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world:

People: Grant us peace.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*SENDING & COMMISSIONING

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

Leader: Let us go to sing, pray and keep God's ways.

People: In God's truth we are set free to love.

Leader: If you will trust in God to guide you,

People: With hopeful hearts we will find the way.

Leader: May God increase your strength of soul.

People: May God increase the work of the church.

Leader: We live into God's grace that has no measure.

People: We live to love one another with all we have!

*HYMN No. 94

If You Will Trust in God to Guide You

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"What a Wonderful World" Louis Armstrong



Welcome to the OCC!

We are so glad to have you join us in worship today.

Please join us for refreshments and continued conversation,
immediately following the service.

May God abundantly bless you and your loved ones with all the good gifts
of the Spirit!

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.

Betty Miller, grandmother of Hodge (Monica) Yohn, for healing and peace after a recent serious fall.

Please keep Hodge, Sherry, and their family in your thoughts and prayers

Brian Donlan, for healing and recovery.

Today's Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGIST: **Lesley Whittemore**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Gordon and Sue Wetmore**

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

PLEASE WELCOME JOE GODFREY, as our musical guest today. 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 again today, Joe!



The Church Mouse Fair November 18, 2023 9 am – 2 pm



Save the date on your calendars for The Church Mouse Fair, to be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 9 - 2. Stay tuned for SPIRE articles, weekly church bulletins, and our new fair bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for important fair updates! Here are some early calls for help: Save items for the Gifts (non-used), Books (excellent condition), Jewelry, and Christmas tables. Start thinking about creative ideas for the Craft Table and saving your gently used items for the Attic Treasures area. Volunteers will be needed on fair day. We look forward with anticipation to this traditional community event at our church!

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

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.



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.

The 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.**

Our faith is rooted in God's love and grows into the mission and service in Christ's compassion to all people regardless of physical or mental ability, race, age, culture, family status, sexual orientation or gender identity.