



The Original Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Sunday, August 27th, 2023, 9:30am  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Welcome to the OCC  
A Positive Possibilities Place*

*Order of Worship*

PRELUDE      “La colombe” (The Dove)      Olivier Messiaen

#### 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: Let us gather with the angels at the river.

**People: Praise shall wash up in its silver spray.**

Leader: Let our hearts be filled with peace.

**People: We shall gather at the river by the throne of God!**

\*OPENING HYMN No. 608

***Shall We Gather at the River***

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray together.

**All: Holy God, you are the source of all our blessings. We confess that when trouble comes and the waves of worry break over us, we lose our way, and become easily overwhelmed. Forgive us our unbelief. We long to come into your presence. Show us the way to live by your Spirit, that we may continually sing your song of life. Amen.**

#### SILENT PRAYER

*Let us be in silent prayer before God in worship.*

#### ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear now, these words of assurance.

This is the great good news of faith. When we hunger and thirst for the right in prayer, God receives us in mercy. When we long for God, the Lord invites us to draw near. From the throne of God flows the everlasting river of life. In God's Holy waters we are healed. We are forgiven. We are restored. And by the glorious river that flows the heavens, the world is made new.

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

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

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 42*

Leader: As a deer longs for flowing streams,

**People: So longs my soul for you, O God.**

Leader: My soul thirsts for God, the living God.

**People: When shall I come and appear before God?**

Leader: Why are you cast down, O my soul?

**People: Why are you in turmoil within me?**

Leader: Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls.

**People: All your breakers and waves have gone over me.**

Leader: By day, the Lord commands steadfast love.

**People: At night, God's song is with me.**

Leader: I pray to the God of my life.

**People: Hope in God. Praise the Lord of our salvation.**

\*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

Revelation 22:1-5 "The River of Life"

MUSIC

**"As the deer"** by Martin Nystrom Monica Yohn, soprano

SCRIPTURE READING

John 7:37-38 "Rivers of Living Water"

SERMON "As the Deer Longs"

SONGS **"Are Ye Able", Said the Master** Words by Earl Marlatt Music by Harry S. Mason  
**"Throw Out the Lifeline"** Edward Smith Ufford

\*HYMN No. 442

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is with us.

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

Leader: Let us pray.

PASTORAL PRAYER

\*HYMN No. 598

*In the Garden*

## CALL TO OFFERING & SERVICE

Leader: Let us present our gifts to the glory of God.

**People: We rejoice to offer the Lord our thanks and praise.**

## OFFERTORY

### **“Amazing Grace”**

Words: John Newton Music: Traditional  
Hodge Yohn, tenor Monica Yohn, soprano

\*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: Dear God, we dedicate these gifts to you.

**People: May all who long for faith receive your mercy.**

Leader: Bless all those who receive of our ministries of grace.

**People: May your steadfast love flow abundantly by faith. Amen.**

## \*SENDING & COMMISSIONING

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

Leader: O Lord, we love to tell the story.

**People: Your love is our theme in glory!**

Leader: Bless all those who hunger and thirst.

**People: May we sing to them a new song!**

Leader: It is so pleasant to repeat, it is so sweet.

**People: Grant us to tell the great story of Jesus and his love!**

\*CLOSING HYMN No. 360 *I Love to Tell the Story*

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE **“Because He Lives”** William and Gloria Gaither

\*POSTLUDE **“La cathédrale engloutie” (The Sunken Cathedral)**

Claude Debussy



--

A note on the music: Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992) was a French composer and organist. Written when he was only 20, "La colombe" arguably reflects his interests both in birdsong and in Christian mysticism (since the dove is a well-known symbol of the Holy Spirit).

In "La cathédrale engloutie," Claude Debussy (1862-1918) portrays the legend of a cathedral in Brittany, France which sank into the ocean but which rises up on clear days, when the bells, Gregorian chant, and organ music can be heard.

***Worship Begins at 10:00am next Sunday!***  
***We return to the Sanctuary for September!***

Thank you for being in worship with us today and this summer! Please join us for refreshments and conversation here in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

And may God bless you all in these days of new beginnings,  
new classrooms, and new experiences!

**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**

**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.

**Brian Donlan**, for healing and recovery.

**Karen Landin**, big sister of Pastor Ken, on the sudden passing of her husband, Rob, and for her recovery and healing.

**The Family of Betty Miller**, grandmother of Hodge (Monica) Yohn, for her recent passing in Hospice Care. Please keep Hodge, Sherry and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

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

**THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGIST: Heather Castelo**

**THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: Mike Foster & Richard Randlov**

**THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: Bob Boissy & Mike Foster**

**WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY** will resume next Sunday, September 3rd, at 10am. We hope you all enjoyed your summer with fun, family and friends!

**KITCHEN ELVES** would normally resume the first Wednesday of September. This year, The Elves will resume **September 13th** and not September 6th this year.



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



We will begin accepting donations for the Fair starting September 5, 2023, Tuesday through Friday from 9am-3pm. Please see the September Spire ,coming out Thursday, August 31st for more details



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.