

"I AM WHO I AM."

The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, September 4th, 2023, 10:00am
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Welcome to the OCC
A Positive Possibilities Place

Order of Worship

PRELUDE **"Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness"** Paul Manz

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. B-13 ***Take Up Your Cross***

CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray together.

All: Merciful God, you send us the way of blessing in times of need. We confess that we do not always recognize your presence in our midst. Forgive us our unbelief. We are easily overcome by the ways of this world. It is difficult to imagine your way includes so much suffering and sacrifice. Grant us strength to meet these days with great faith. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear now these words of assurance.

The great good news of our faith is this: we are forgiven. Any sin on our part is an occasion for great grace on God's part. In the Lord, we are assured that evil has already been overcome by good. Peace is possible. Harmony is our song. And by faith, those who weep shall be comforted. Those who are alone will have a spirit companion. And in hope, all the world is blessed.

People: Praise be to the Lord our God!

RESPONSIVE PSALM *from 105*

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord.

People: Make known God's deeds.

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord.

People: Tell of God's wonderful works.

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

Leader: Let those who seek the Lord rejoice.

People: Seek the Lord and God's strength.

Leader: Remember God's miracles and judgments.

People: The Lord made the people fruitful.

Leader: God sent Moses and Aaron to serve them.

People: Praise the Lord!

ACT OF PRAISE No. 36 *Glory Be* 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

Matthew 16:21-26 "Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me"

MUSIC HYMN No. 497 **"When Israel Was in Egypt's Land"** Traditional

Monica Yohn, soprano

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:1-15 "Moses Meets God at the Burning Bush"

SERMON "To Follow in God's Footsteps"

*HYMN No. 189 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is with us.

People: Christ is in our midst.

Leader: Let us pray.

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

Leader: Let us return our gifts to God.

People: We rejoice to share in God's work.

Leader: Let our hearts be filled with the Spirit.

People: With God, all things are possible.

OFFERTORY **"The Summons"**

Words: John L. Bell Music: Traditional

Monica Yohn, soprano

*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 we dedicate our gifts to you.

People: Strengthen our mission in your name.

Leader: Bless all to receive your gifts of grace.

People: Expand our outreach to your glory. Amen.

*HYMN No. 319

Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken

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*

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

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: Oh God of grace and God of glory:

People: Pour on your people your power.

Leader: Fulfill your church's story.

People: Bring our potential to flower.

Leader: Grant us wisdom.

People: Grant us courage.

Leader: Your Spirit of Love upon us shower.

People: Send us, proclaiming hope in every hour!

*HYMN No. 477 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE **"Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness"** Johann Gottfried Walther



Welcome to the OCC!

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

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and continued conversation.

May God bless you and all your loved ones in this fall season of new beginnings.

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 continued recovery and healing.

Today's Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGIST: **Sue Wetmore**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Ralph Lambalot, Bob & Kathy Boissy, Heather Castello, Gordon & Sue Wetmore**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Joan Mello & Bob Casavant**

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR WRENTHAM DAY.

Saturday, September 9th the OCC will be having a booth on Wrentham Day from 9 - 2. The booth location, if the same as last year, is right at the entrance. Meet and greet passersby's, giving out fair information, hand out snacks - have fun. Hours are flexible. Please contact Gordon Wetmore if you have any available time to offer!!

BIBLE STUDY will resume Tuesday, September 5th,
BELLS AND CHOIR REHEARSAL will resume Thursday, September 7th.
KITCHEN ELVES begin on the first Wednesday of each month. This year, The Elves will start **September 13th** and not September 6th.
LUNCH BUNCH will resume September 20th.

PLEASE WELCOME ANNMARIE...

As you are all aware, Donna Charbatji will be leaving us in the fall for the sunny climates of FL, after serving ably as our Office Administrator for the past nine years. We wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement as a “snowbird”.

We are pleased to announce that we have hired AnnMarie Lascoula-Helmar as our new Office Administrator. She comes to us after a 10-year stint as Senior Administrative Assistant for the Archdiocese of Boston, which involved various administrative duties that fit well with our profile. AnnMarie will be starting on September 5th, and will work with Donna for a month or so, to allow for a smooth transition. Please welcome AnnMarie if you happen to come to the office.



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 for more details.



We are an Open and Affirming congregation
Of 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.