



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, September 10th, 2023, 10:00am
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Welcome to the OCC
A Positive Possibilities Place*

Order of Worship

PRELUDE “Christ is Made the Sure Foundation” (WESTMINSTER ABBEY) Henry Purcell

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: Divine love, the joy of heaven, to earth comes down.

People: May God’s love dwell in our time in worship.

Leader: Jesus is full of compassion and shares love unbound.

People: May saving grace visit every willing heart!

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray together.

All: Holy God, you invite us to live by faith and to love one another well. We confess that we have not always loved you, and one another, as we ought. Forgive us our sins, we pray. Let us fulfill your ways in the ways we care for each other. May our concern be genuine and our actions true. Make our moments and our days a dwelling place for love. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

Let us observe a moment of silence in worship before the Lord.

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

(1)

ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear now these words of assurance.

We have been given the good news in God's Word. The Scriptures instruct us in endurance and through encouragement to abound always in hope. Christ welcomes us to the glory of God. In Christ, our sins are forgiven. In Christ heaven is unbound on earth. And we may all live in peace and harmony through the love of God so abundantly shared from one heart to another.

People: Praise be to God. 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 149*

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: Sing to the Lord a new song.

Leader: Be glad in our Creator.

People: Let the children of Zion rejoice!

Leader: Praise the Lord with dancing.

People: Make melody with strings.

Leader: The Lord rejoices with the people.

People: The humble are adorned with salvation.

Leader: Let the faithful exult in glory.

People: Sing praises to the Lord!

*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 13:8-10 "Love Is the Fulfilling of the Law"

ANTHEM

"Freedom is Coming"

S. African Traditional

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:10-20 "Parables of the Lost"

SERMON "Love Unbound"

*HYMN No. B-42

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

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: Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

People: We rejoice to return our strength to the glory of God.

OFFERTORY “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” Sebastian Temple

*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 our gifts to you.

People: Bless us in our love and service in your name.

Leader: Grant to all who receive our gifts your saving grace.

People: Bless us to share your love abundantly with all!

*SENDING & COMMISSIONING

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

Leader: Like flowers of the field unfolding:

People: Our souls return joy to the Lord of Love.

Leader: Our words can melt the clouds of sin and sadness.

People: By faith, we can drive the dark of doubt away.

Leader: Let us return divine gladness to the world.

People: We shall fill each day with light of faith.

Leader: Let us be sent to gather all to sing the song of life.

People: We go into the world to proclaim God is Joy!

*CLOSING HYMN No. 7 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

SPOKEN BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE “289 Amen” Dresden

*POSTLUDE “Sonata in D Minor” Domenico Scarlatti



Thank you for being in worship with us this morning!

We are glad to welcome you to the OCC.

Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the Fellowship Hall
immediately following the service.

May God bless you and your loved ones in this season of New Beginnings!

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.

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.

Betty Tobin, for her well-being.

Pearl and Gerry Gottberg, on their recent hospitalization in Florida.

Today's Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGIST: Lesley Whittemore

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: Lesley Whittemore, Kim Kelly, Pam Jennette and Leesa Burke.

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: Leesa Burke and Jerry Long

KITCHEN ELVES AND LUNCH BUNCH have been postponed until October. Elves will resume October 4th and Lunch Bunch October 18th

THE STEWARDSHIP THEME this year is "Your Pew", and we will be emphasizing our community of belonging with tales from the past, a review of the current, and hopes for the future. We are seeking to share ideas about being rooted, and the Church's role in that.

See Bob Boissy and Ralph Lambalot

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.

Church Mouse Fair

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Sixty-two
LXII
(3x20)+2
62



Yup! It's time to get ready. The OCC Church Mouse Fair will take place on Saturday, November 18. That's only 62 days from today! Yet already people are scurrying around in preparation for this, our biggest all-church fund-raiser and fun-raiser of the year.

While most areas of the fair have leaders in place, you, too, can help NOW. How? By spreading the word of this event to your neighbors, relatives, friends, business associates, kids' friends' parents, homeowners association, bowling team, fellow Lions, yoga buddies, book club members, basically everyone you know.

Tell these people that the church is a great place to drop off household items for our Attic Treasures or excess Christmas decorations. Amy Kopas and her stalwart vestry workers and Mike and Emmie Foster at their holiday-themed table welcome all appropriate contributions. (No clothes, appliances or large furniture.)

This is also a great time to begin craft projects for Sue Wetmore's Craft Table as you keep one eye on the Patriots and the other on your wood-sanding or mitten knitting or centerpiece arranging. Likewise, Sherry Davis urges gardeners to propagate baby boxwood plants or succulents for her green plant table...maybe a tiny forest of little evergreens?

There was no OCC fair 350 years ago. Today you can check out what's taking shape by looking at the fair bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. With your involvement as communicators and contributors, we can make this Church Mouse Fair worth the 350 year wait!

Barbara Ligon and Gordon Wetmore,
Church Mouse Fair Co-Chairs

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October 1
October 8
October 15
October 29
November 5
November 12



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.