



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, September 17th, 2023, 10:00am
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to the OCC

A Positive Possibilities Place

Order of Worship

PRELUDE **Cantabile Sacra 45: "Great is the Lord"** Paul F. Page

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.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Bob Boissy

GATHERING OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

*HYMN No. 204 ***Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Holy God, you have led your people with great signs and wonders. You have set us free by your majesty and strength. We confess that we lose our faith when the flood of worry and woes pile up in our lives and in the world. Forgive us our unbelief. Show us how we can still find our way by your amazing miracles and gracious presence. Amen

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE

Leader: Let us receive these words of assurance.

From the sea of despair, God saves. From the scenes of devastation God delivers. From the grip of terrible fates God frees. The great good news of faith is this: In Christ's love we are forgiven. In God's care for creation, we are all held in God's concern. Every child is God's much beloved. Each life is a great occasion for God's abundant, merciful and majestic grace to appear!

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

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

(1)

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 Exodus 15*

Leader: I will sing to the Lord.

People: God has triumphed gloriously.

Leader: The Lord is my strength and might.

People: God has become my salvation.

Leader: This is my God to whom we shall praise.

People: Pharaoh's chariots and army are cast in the sea.

Leader: The floods covered them.

People: In greatness you overthrew your adversaries.

Leader: The waters piled up. They stood up in a heap.

People: You blew with your wind, and the sea covered them.

Leader: Who is like you, majestic in holiness?

People: You are awesome in splendor, doing wonders!

*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 14:7-12 "We Live to the Lord"

ANTHEM

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"
(BEACH SPRING) arr. Robert Lau

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 14:19-31 "The Israelites Cross the Red Sea"

SERMON "Crossing Currents"

*HYMN No. 102 ***Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah***

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 to God our offering.

People: We rejoice to offer our gifts to God.

OFFERTORY **"Thanks Be to Thee"** G. F. Handel

*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: God of wonders, you have blessed us with much.

People: We offer you our sacrifices of thanks and praise.

Leader: To you we dedicate these gifts with humble hearts.

People: To you we commit ourselves in faith and service.

Leader: Grant that we may extend your blessing to all we meet.

People: May our mission be full of your abundant grace. Amen.

*SENDING & COMMISSIONING

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

Leader: Into the midst of new dimensions:

People: We are God's people.

Leader: Into the flood of great need:

People: We are God's people.

Leader: Led to where the eagles soar:

People: We are God's people.

Leader: With a sea of divine compassion:

People: We are God's people.

Leader: Under sun, cloud, rain and rainbow:

People: We are sent to serve as God's people!

*CLOSING HYMN No. 363 *In the Midst of New Dimensions*

*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE HYMN NO. 289 *Amen*

*POSTLUDE **"Prelude No. 4"** Paul F. Page



Welcome to the OCC!
Thanks for being with us today.
Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the Fellowship Hall
immediately following the serve.
May God open up pathways of great possibility for you to enter new dimensions this
week

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: **Barbara Ligon**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Stephen Becker, Heather Castelo,
Ralph Lambalot & Judy O'Neill**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Mike Foster &
Ralph Lambalot**

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 Lamba

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 “snow bird”.

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 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.

STEWARDSHIP

Original Congregational Church, Wrentham, MA. Stewardship Team: Ralph Lambalot, Bob Boissy

Stewardship Campaign – Fall 2023 for the 2024 Budget Year

Main goal: Maintain steady state revenue for operations budget

Secondary goals: Maintain steady state revenue for outreach budget, maintain or grow pledge counts achieved in immediate prior years, grow the budget if possible.

Theme of the Campaign: Your pew. Using both historic and modern day understandings of church, community and belonging, stress the rootedness of the OCC. A central place, a place of safety and security, a place to return to when the work of the world has taken its toll. We will be very down to earth with this campaign, offering a special stewardship moments relating to facilities and Fair, and celebrating our physical structure. An outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace.

Like the pew that waits for you to come and join the service, the church as a whole relies on you for its structure and function. The pew that you choose on any given day is your pew. They are all your pews. You are the stewards.

