

The Original Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Sunday, September 24th, 2023, 10:00am  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Welcome to the OCC  
Positive Possibilities Place  
Order of Worship*

PRELUDE     **Fantasia**     Friar Tomas de Santa Maria

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                      Barbara Ligon Fair Stewardship

GATHERING OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

\*HYMN                      ***Come, Labor On***     Jane L. Borthwick  
*Please see page 5.*                      Music: ORA LABORA, T. Tertius Noble

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray together.

**All: Gracious God, you are the source of all blessing, the giver of great things. We confess that we forget your holy promise. We complain about fairness. We grow envious of others. We let the fear of scarcity rule us. Forgive us our unbelief. Fill our hearts with your generous Spirit to participate in your Godly grace that covers the world in love. Amen.**

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

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE

Leader: Receive these words of assurance.

According to the Word of God, there is great progress and great joy in faith. When we stand firm in the Spirit and strive side by side to share in the riches of Christ, we are made bold to love well in the face of suffering and devastation. In Christ, we are forgiven. In Christ we can do all things and accomplish all things that the Lord makes possible. We live by the Good News of the Gospel.

**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 105*

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord.

**People: Make God's deeds known.**

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord.

**People: Tell of all the wonderful works.**

Leader: Let those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**People: God brought Israel out of Egypt.**

Leader: A cloud covered them by day.

**People: A fire gave them light by night.**

Leader: God gave them food from heaven.

**People: Water flowed from the rock.**

Leader: God remembered the holy promise.

**People: The people were brought out with joy!**

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

Exodus 16:2-3, 9-15

“God Hears the People Complaining”

ANTHEM **Down to the River to Pray** arr. Mark Rippe

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 20:1-16 “The Parable of the Complaining Laborers”

SERMON “Complaints Well Served”

\*HYMN No. 465

***O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee***

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: Come, let us present our offerings to the Lord.

**People: We are glad to give to God our gifts with joy!**

OFFERTORY **The Apple Tree** K. Lee Scott

\*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: With thanksgiving for all you bless us with;**

Leader: With praise for all the wonderful works you do;

**People: With delight for bringing good things to life;**

Leader: We dedicate ourselves anew to service in your name.

**People: May our words and labor abound in your grace. Amen.**

\*SENDING & COMMISSIONING

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

Leader: Lord of all hopefulness;

**People: Send us out with joy.**

Leader: Lord of all eagerness;

**People: Send us out with faith.**

Leader: Lord of all kindliness;

**People: Send us out with grace.**

Leader: Lord of all gentleness;

**People: May we bring peace into each new day!**

\*HYMN No. 444 *Lord of All Hopefulness*

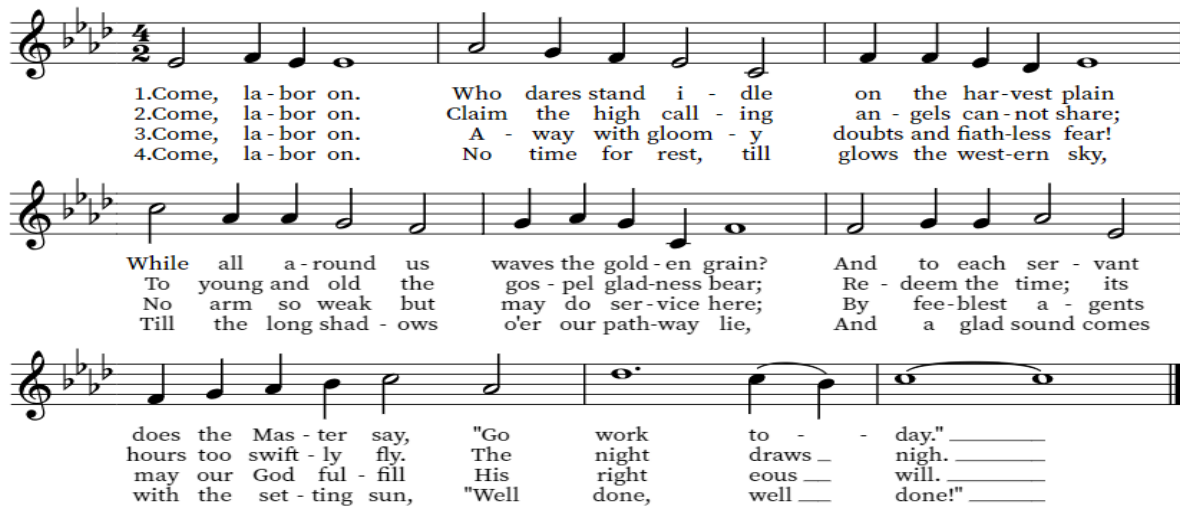
\*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

\*POSTLUDE **Fantasia in F** G.P. Telemann



## “Come, Labor on”



1.Come, la-bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har-vest plain  
 2.Come, la-bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;  
 3.Come, la-bor on. A - way with gloom - y doubts and fiath-less fear!  
 4.Come, la-bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west-ern sky,

While all a-round us waves the gold-en grain? And to each ser - vant  
 To young and old the gos - pel glad-ness bear; Re - deem the time; its  
 No arm so weak but may do ser-vice here; By fee-blest a - gents  
 Till the long shad - ows o'er our path-way lie, And a glad sound comes

does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - - day." \_\_\_\_\_  
 hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws \_ nigh. \_\_\_\_\_  
 may our God ful - fill His right eous \_ will. \_\_\_\_\_  
 with the set - ting sun, "Well done, well \_ done!" \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome to the OCC!

We are glad to have you with us for worship today.

Please join us for coffee and refreshments in our hall following the service.

May God bless you this fall with all the great gifts of the Spirit.

*Today we honor and give thanks to Donna Charbatji as she completes a decade of dedicated service to the OCC and begins her new winter life in Florida!*

### 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 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: **Gordon Wetmore**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Mike Foster, Alice Gero, Joan Mello and Richard Randlov**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Bob Boissy and Trevor Knot**

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

## PLEASE WELCOME ANNMARIE...

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.

## SOUTHERN BLUEGRASS CONCERT OCTOBER 28TH 7pm to 9pm

Tickets go on sale Wednesday, September 27th in the office. Please stop by during office hours from Tuesday through Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Donations for this one time only concert, are cash or check only. There will be no on-line credit/debit card sales.



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.

