



The Original Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 10:00am  
Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

***The Lord plans for you a future and a hope***  
—Jeremiah 29:11

*Order of Worship*

PRELUDE

**“Song Without Words”** Alois F. Lejeal

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.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Glorious is the coming of our Lord.

**People: We welcome the Lord with all our heart.**

Leader: In worship we welcome all to enter in.

**People: We rejoice to be gathered in God’s presence.**

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

*Notices for the program, ministries and people of the church are shared.*

GATHERING OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

\*HYMN No. 80

***O God, Our Help in Ages Past***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray together.

**All: Holy God, you are the source of hope and light. We acknowledge that the ways of the world have diminished our faithfulness. We confess that in the many demands on our time, we have let the sacred fires go out. Forgive us our unbelief. Encourage us to choose wisely the many ways we may live boldly and live faithfully, enduring in your Word. Amen.**

## SILENT PRAYER

### ASSURANCE

Leader: Receive these words of blessed assurance.

The confidence of faith is that we do not live as if without hope. The Lord's plans for us are for our wholeness, our future, and our hope. We who hope are made alive in Christ. In Christ we are much beloved. In Christ we are forgiven. In Christ we have received saving grace. Therefore, we are forever encouraged for the Word of the Lord is our light that shines gloriously forever.

**People: Praise be to the Lord of Hope and Light. 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 78*

Leader: Listen, O my people, to my teaching.

**People: I will speak in parables from old.**

Leader: We share what our ancestors told us.

**People: We will tell of them to the next generation.**

Leader: The Lord has done glorious deeds.

**People: Listen to the wonders God has done.**

Leader: God established a law in Israel.

**People: God had the people teach it to their children.**

Leader: Rise up and tell them to the children,

**People: So that all shall set their hope in God.**

\*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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

*We welcome Cody Kramer to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.*

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT & BLESSING *unison*

*All may rise to offer a blessing for the newly baptized.*

**Holy God, we thank you for the gift of baptism and the joy of new life. We promise our love, support, and blessing for the newly baptized. Grant to Cody, strength for life's journey, courage in times of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.**

HYMN No. 307

***Wonder of Wonders***

*Please remain seated during the singing of the baptismal hymn.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 24:1-2, 14-15 "Choose Whom You Will Serve"

ANTHEM

**"Steal Away"** African-American Spiritual

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:1-13 "A Parable of Keeping Awake"

SERMON "Jesus is Coming—Look Busy"

\*HYMN No. 259

***Awake, Awake to Love and Work***

LIGHTING CANDLES OF HOPE

*All are invited to light a candle of hope on the altar table.*

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 ourselves as a living sacrifice to the Lord.

**People: We rejoice to share in God's good works of faith.**

Leader: Join in the heavenly work of the church on earth.

**People: Our God gifts reach far and near by God's grace.**

OFFERTORY **"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"** African-American Spiritual

\*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 ourselves anew to you.

**People: May our offering be used in your service.**

Leader: May all who receive know they are blessed.

**People: Strengthen the lives of all those in need. Amen.**

\*SENDING & COMMISSIONING

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

Leader: In Christ we are happy and blessed.

**People: In Christ we have a song to sing.**

Leader: Let us go out and tell of God's goodness.

**People: We watch and wait for the Lord above.**

Leader: Let us serve the Lord with gladness.

**People: We rejoice to share God's blessed assurance.**

\*HYMN No. B-38

*Blessed Assurance*

\*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

288 Amen

(Twofold)

\*POSTLUDE

**"Wachet Auf" (Awake, Awake)" J.G. Walther**



## **Welcome to the OCC!**

Thank you for joining us in worship today!  
Come and share refreshments in our hall following the service.

## **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.

**Betty Tobin**, for her well-being.

**Pearl and Gerry Gottberg**, for continued healing and recovery.

**SERVICE NOTICE for Pastor Ken's Family.** Last summer Pastor Ken's big sister Karen Landin lost her devoted husband in a traffic accident. On Saturday, November 18th, visiting hours, words of remembrance and internment will be held. You may go to [www.sullivanfuneralhome.net](http://www.sullivanfuneralhome.net) to see the beautiful expressions of life for Robert Titmore, a person of great strength and loving provider. He is deeply missed.

**TODAY WE WELCOME TO THE CHURCH** the family and friends of Kelly and Colin Kramer to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism of their son **Cody Francis Kramer**. Standing in honor as Godparents are Kyle McCabe and Kristen McCabe. Congratulations to all and May God Bless.

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

**THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGIST: Hans Pope**

**THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: Mike Foster, Alice Gero, Kim Kelly and Jean Roche**

**THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: Ralph Lambalot and Joan Mello**

**CHURCH FAIR** will be held on November 18th from 9-2. Please see today's insert for various volunteer opportunities. Your help will make our Fair a great success.

**Wrentham Community Thanksgiving Worship Service Sunday**, November 19th at 4:00 PM at the Trinity Episcopal Wrentham, all are welcome!

**STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES** Thank you all for your gifts. If you have not sent in your pledges, please submit them to Bob Boissy, or if you're looking for a pledge form, you can find them on the welcome table outside of the office. Again, thank you for all that you do.

### **2023 Pledge Balances**

As the end of 2023 approaches, the Finance Team is working on finalizing the year-end financials and budget projections for 2024. It would be greatly appreciated if everyone can check to see if the payments on your 2023 pledge are up to date and catch up if needed. Thanks for your continued support of OCC.

### **Continue Donating After the Fair**

Donations to Attic Treasures continue to arrive, which is great. There will be a follow up Yard Sale on Saturday **December 2 from 8 am to 11 am**. So, keep those donations coming, even after the Fair.

**The Wrentham Lions** invite the seniors in Wrentham, Plainville and Norfolk to its annual Christmas party, December 3, from 1-3pm, at the King Philip Regional High School. Please call the Wrentham Senior Center at 508-384-5425 by 11/21 to register.



We are an Open and Affirming Congregation  
of the United Church of Christ

The Open and Affirming Covenant of the OCC



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.

Please see our ONA Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall, and look on our Website for more information and links to the wider UCC resources.

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