



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, November 19th, 2023, 10:00am
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Thanksgiving Sunday and Ingathering Gifts

Thanksgiving Day...
Celebrated part at table
Part in memory—Emily Dickinson

Order of Worship

PRELUDE **“For the Beauty of the Earth”** arr. Michael Burkhardt

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: Come, let us join our hearts in worship.

People: We lift to God our songs of praise and thanksgiving!

HANDBELL CHOIR “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

George Elvy; arr. Barbara Kinyon

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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

*HYMN No. 526

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

*BLESSING OUR INGATHERING GIFTS

Leader: Let us come with thanksgiving.

People: We raise the song of harvest home.

Leader: O Lord, you are the source of all blessings.

People: We pray you bless all who receive our gifts.

Leader: May you raise the souls in need of spirit care.

People: Make all to safely dwell at home with peace.

Leader: Bless all at Grit and Grace that they rest secure.

People: Encourage all hearts with compassion.

Leader: May the abundance of potential be in reach.

People: We thank you for the gift of caring! Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Holy God, from you flows the abundance of blessing. We confess that we lose sight of your ways as we make our way. You have brought us into a good land. By faith you grant us brooks of living water, flowing fountains, and produce wheat and barley, figs and honey, olives and pomegranates. All could eat without scarcity. All could live without lack. Forgive us our unbelief. Make us to share your Spirit with all in generosity. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE

Leader: Let us receive the assurance of faith.

The Living God welcomes all in need of mercy. Our prayers for healing are heard. By faith we are made well. Our sins are forgiven by the power of Christ's love. We may rise and walk into a whole new life!

People: Thanks be to God for all the gifts of the Spirit. 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 65*

Leader: Awesome are you, O God of salvation.

People: You are the hope of all the ends of the earth.

Leader: You visit the earth and water it, greatly enriching it.

People: You water its furrows abundantly.

Leader: You settle its ridges and soften it with showers.

People: You crown the year with your bounty.

Leader: The meadows clothe themselves with flocks.

People: The valleys are decked out in grain.

Leader: Awesome are you deeds. Holiness is your house.

People: All the earth shouts out for your joy.

*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

Deuteronomy 8:7-18 “God Is Bringing You into a Good Land”

HANDBELL CHOIR “We Gather Together” Netherlands Folk Hymn; arr. Barbara Kinyon

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 17:11-19 “The One Who Gives Glory to God”

SERMON “A Moment to Give Thanks”

*HYMN No. 528

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

LIGHTING A PRAYER CANDLE with Thanksgiving

Following a time for prayer petitions we light a common candle of thanksgiving.

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is with us.

People: Christ is in our midst.

Leader: Let us pray.

PASTORAL PRAYER

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

CALL TO OFFERING & SERVICE

Leader: Let us present our gifts to God.

People: We rejoice for the gifts of faith and beauty!

OFFERTORY “**For the Beauty of the Earth**” Conrad Kocher; arr. Barbara Kinyon

*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 & STEWARDSHIP BLESSING**

Leader: Holy God, you crown the year with beauty and life.

People: In great abundance your love pours forth.

Leader: We thank you for calling us to serve you here.

People: We dedicate ourselves anew to our faith works.

Leader: Bless us as we extend our outreach and missions.

People: Bless us in our care for seniors, children and all between.

Leader: Bless us in our faith formation and joy of learning.

People: Bless us in our singing praise to you in worship.

Leader: Bless us in our care for the pews and pillars and people.

People: Bless us in our caretaking of all our resources.

Leader: May we grow in faith, hope, love and service.

People: May we grow in Spirit and in strength.

Leader: May we grow into the dream you have for us.

People: We rejoice to build up the OCC, our church home.

***SENDING & COMMISSIONING**

Leader: Let us now travel forward from light into light!

People: We join all things now living to sing God's praise!

***HYMN No. 529**

Let All Things Now Living

***SPOKEN BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"**

Monica Yohn, Soprano, Words: Henry Francis Lyte, Music: John Gross

***POSTLUDE**

"Sing to the Lord of Harvest" arr. Michael Burkhardt



Welcome to the OCC!

We wish the blessings of health, peace and love to all for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Please join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments following worship.

We Thank the Wrentham wRingers under the direction of Martha Goodman for bringing us beautiful handbell music in worship this morning. We rehearse on Thursday evenings. We would love to put a bell in your hands! Come ring with us!

Today is Stewardship Sunday and we take a moment to bless our financial commitments in worship for 2024. Your direct giving makes all the difference for our mission, outreach and ministries of grace here at the OCC. Thank You!

Ingathering Donations are being received today to benefit “Grit and Grace—Sober Living for Woman” in Attleboro as a home for women on the journey to recovery, developing strong relationships and life skills. Thank you for your contributions. May all find the path to wellness and receive the abundance of love and support along the way.

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.

Today's Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGIST: **Alice Gero**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Leesa Burke, Trevor Knot, Joan Mello and Judy O'Neill**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Leesa Burk and Trevor Knot**

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.

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

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.

