



The Original Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 10:00am  
Second Sunday after the Epiphany

*The arc of the moral universe is long,  
but it bends toward justice.*  
—Martin Luther King, Jr. 1968

*Order of Service*

PRELUDE

“Adoration” Florence Price

GREETING

Leader: Grace and Peace to you in the name of the One who is and who was and who is to come, the Lord Almighty!

**People: And may our joy be made complete in our fellowship of faith! Amen.**

WELCOME & ONA COVENANT *printed on back.*

LIFE OF THE CHURCH AND READING OF THE WARRANT

*Announcements are made for the good of the parish.*

GATHERING OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

\*HYMN No. 530

*Once to Every Heart and Nation*

CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray together.

**All: Holy God, you are the source of all justice and mercy. Grant that we may hear your call to us through worship, prayer and faithfulness. We confess we do not always live according to your ways. Grant that we may grow in righteousness, peace-making, and compassionate service. May the light of your love show us new paths to kinship. Amen.**

## SILENT PRAYER

### ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear these words of assurance.

In the power of Christ's love, we are forgiven. No child is beyond God's reach. God's Spirit is placed upon us to be as a light for the nations, to open minds, to release those held in darkness, that we may never grow weary in doing the right, never being discouraged, but in confidence, we may face the future with the message of peace and to build up the bonds of common community.

**People: Praise be to the Lord our God!**

### RESPONSIVE PSALM *from Psalm 37*

Leader: Trust in the Lord and do good.

**People: Dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.**

Leader: Commit your way to the Lord and God will act.

**People: God brings forth your righteousness as the light.**

Leader: Turn away from evil and do good.

**People: For the Lord loves justice.**

Leader: Wait for the Lord and keep God's ways.

**People: There is a future for the people of peace.**

\*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 Hunter Harper to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.*

HYMN No. 306

***Child of Blessing, Child of Promise***

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

## 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 Hunter, 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.**

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 42:5-9 “You Are a Light to the Nations”

ANTHEM

**“Free at Last”** arr. Peter Amidon

SCRIPTURE

Luke 11:37-42 “Do Not Neglect Justice and Faith”

SERMON “The Faith to Face the Future”

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Christ is with us.

**People: Christ is in our midst.**

Leader: Let us pray.

PASTORAL PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

Leader: Let us present our gifts to God.

**People: We present our faith offering with love.**

OFFERTORY

**“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”** arr. Roy Ringwald

\*DOXOLOGY No. 44 Words: Thomas Ken 1674; Music: Bourgeois 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: Holy God, we dedicate our gifts to your glory.

**People: May this world resound in your love and mercy. Amen.**

\*HYMN No. 311

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive at the Lord's Table!*

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

SANCTUS

\*HYMN No. 287

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

CONSECRATION

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.**

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, all ho - ly, Have mer - cy up - on us. You  
take a-way the sins of the world. Grant us your peace.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER

**We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

SENDING & COMMISSIONING

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

Leader: From the mountains,

**People: From over the hills,**

Leader: From across the seas,

**People: Into every valley,**

Leader: Let us tell God's story!

**All: Into this world, God's saving grace is born!**

\*HYMN No. 515

*This Is My Song*

BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE No. 291

**Amen**

POSTLUDE

**“O Praise the Lord”** William Boyce



*Welcome to the OCC!*

We are so glad to have you with us in worship today.  
Please join us for refreshments after worship.  
May God bless you with all the good gifts of the Spirit.

**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.

**Mari Georgio** for healing and recovery.

**Cheryl Rowe** for healing and recovery.

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

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGIST: **Barbara Ligon**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Mike Foster, Pam Jennette, Jean Roach and Lesley Whittemore**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Bob Boissy and Mike Foster**

**NOTES ON THE MUSIC**

Composer, pianist, and organist Florence Price (1887-1953) was the first African-American woman to have her compositions (including several symphonies) performed by major American orchestras.

"Free at Last" is a spiritual which Martin Luther King referenced in his "I Have a Dream" speech.

This arrangement of "Precious Lord" is inscribed "To the honored memory of Martin Luther King, Jr."



**The Original Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ, Wrentham, MA  
Open and Affirming Covenant  
Adopted on June 5, 2022**



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.

We welcome all who have no church home, seek strength, and want to follow the teachings of Jesus.

We welcome believers and non-believers, doubters and questioners, and questioning believers.

We welcome new visitors and old friends.

We welcome grandparents, mothers, fathers and children.

We welcome single and partnered people.

We welcome people of all ages, colors, cultures, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions.

Here at The Original Congregational Church, Wrentham, we believe that **whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**