



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, February 18th, 2024, 10:00am
First Sunday in Lent

*“And now,” cried Max. “let the wild
rumpus start!” —Maurice Sendak*

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

“To You I Lift My Soul”

Words: Psalm 25 Paraphrase by John Dunn(1943-2022)

Music: John Ireland (1879-1962)

John Dunn was music director for many years at St. Paul's Church in Harvard Square, where Justin was a choirboy at one point.

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.

A TIME FOR MUSIC WITH THE CHILDREN

Sunday School activities follow our musical gathering time.

*HYMN No. 191

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray together.

All: Creator God, our times are in your hands. We confess that we do not always listen for the ways you are leading us. Forgive our moments of unbelief. Forgive our past transgressions. Make our spirits to be in tune with your Spirit. Tend to our soul with your steadfast love and faithfulness. Show us the way to go in each new day. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE

Leader: Receive these words of assurance.

As Christ suffered for our sins, the unrighteous are made right by the Lord's steadfast love and faithfulness. Christ lived in the body and was made alive in the Spirit. This is our good news. As we make our way through the wilds of life, we also receive the assurance of faith: Good has overcome evil, light shines through any darkness, God's love makes a home in our heart forever.

People: Thanks be to the Lord of Life. 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 25*

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

People: O my God, in you I trust.

Leader: Make me to know your ways.

People: Teach me your paths.

Leader: Lead me in your truth.

People: You are the God of our salvation.

Leader: We wait for you all day long.

People: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord.

Leader: Do not remember the sins of our youth.

People: Good and upright is the Lord.

Leader: God instructs sinners in the way.

People: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love.

*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

Genesis 9:8-17 “God’s Covenant with All Living Things”

ANTHEM

“Non nobis, Domine” Attributed to William Byrd

Not unto us, O Lord, Not unto us; but to your name be the glory

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:9-15 “Jesus in the Wilderness for Forty Days”

SERMON “With the Wild Beasts”

*HYMN No. 143

Jesus, Our Savior, Kind and Good

See insert for words.

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 our God gifts in worship.

People: With love, we praise and thank the Lord.

OFFERTORY

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

Words: Isaac Watts. Music: arr. Virgil Thomson

*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, accept our gifts we bring.

People: We dedicate ourselves anew to your ways.

Leader: Lead us into all ways of love and service.

People: Bless us in your ministries of grace. Amen.

*SENDING & COMMISSIONING

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

Leader: Throughout these forty days we stay close to the Lord.

People: God gives us the strength to resist temptation.

Leader: As Jesus showed us the way we too follow those footsteps.

People: In prayerful walking, we make our way to Passion-tide.

Leader: As we abide in God, our Lord shall abide with us!

People: We shall make our way at last to that Easter Joy!

*HYMN No. B-12

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE No. 280

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

*POSTLUDE

“Orientis Partibus” arr. Justin Kisch



Welcome to the OCC!

Thank you for being in worship today!

Join us for refreshments following the service.

May the Lord lead you through Lent with love and faith!

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.

Today's Flowers are dedicated in loving memory of Joshua Davis by his parents.

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

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

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Leesa Burke and Joan Mello**

Food, Fun & Faith begins Wednesday February 28th 5-7pm

Church friends of all ages are welcome to an evening of supper and games. This month will offer "Macaroni Madness" and a variety of boardgames. Please contact Monica Yohn at mltlove3@gmail.com we would love to have you join us!

2024 Spring Yard Sale

The 2024 spring yard sale will be held on May 11 from 8 am to noon. Many donations are needed. Donations may be dropped off in the Vestry at any time. Call Mike Foster if you need assistance. As usual, **do not bring any clothes, books** that aren't in pristine condition, **TVs, computers, large stereos, or large furniture**. In addition, please do not bring **baby furniture, strollers, car seats**.



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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Senior Pastor: Reverend Kenneth C. Landin
Organist & Music Director: Justin Kisch
Bells Director: Martha Goodman
Church Sextons: Bob and Sandy Cummings
Church Office Administrator: AnnMarie Helmar

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