The Original Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Sunday, September 1st, 2024, 9:30am

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

 ***Next Sunday ,September 8 th, Worship Returns to the Sanctuary at 10:00am***

*Order of Service*

PRELUDE **"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"** J. S. Bach

Justin Kisch, tenor Kent Jones, baritone Monica Yohn, flute

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 page 8*

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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

\*HYMN No. 25 ***Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above***

CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray together.

**All: Holy God you are the source of healing and wholeness. We confess that we are not always diligent in prayer. We come to believe we are not worthy. Forgive us our unbelief. Increase our trust in your power to make all things new. Open up all the pathways of possibility through unending prayer and our life together in your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

 SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE

Leader: Receive these words of assurance.

In prayer, all things are possible. The good news of our faith is that the love of Jesus is already at work in us, forgiving our sins, and raising us up to a higher place. We are healed. Our belief is increased. In the Spirit we seek and hold fast to what is good. In prayer, we never stop giving thanks to God and we rejoice to be at peace with God and one another in the spirit, soul and body.

**People: Praise be to the Lord of Life!**

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

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RESPONSIVE PSALM *from Psalm 126*

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

**People: We were like those who dream.**

Leader: Then we were filled with laughter.

**People: We spoke with shouts of joy.**

Leader: Let it be known among the nations:

**People: The Lord has done great things for us!**

Leader: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like water in the desert.

**People: May those who sow in tears, reap with joy.**

Leader: Those who go out bearing the seeds for sowing;

**People: Shall come home with joy carrying the harvest.**

\*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

1 Thessalonians 5:12-24 “Do Good; Pray without Ceasing; Give Thanks”

MUSIC **"Your Hands, O Lord, in Days of Old, Were Strong to Heal and Save"**

 attrib. W. A. Mozart

SCRIPTURE

Mark 9:20-29 “Jesus Heals a Child through Prayer”

SERMON “The Possibilities in Prayer”

\*HYMN No. 442  ***What a Friend We Have in Jesus***

PRAYER NOTICES *are shared*

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 rejoice to lift up our offerings.**

Leader: The Lord is calling us to work together.

**People: We are building God’s caring community by grace.**

OFFERTORY **“His Eye is on the Sparrow”**

Words: Civilla D. Martin Music: Charles H. Gabriel, arr. Tom Fettke

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\*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 you.

**People: Bless all our work in your name.**

Leader: May you bless us with growth in the Spirit.

**People: May all we do be filled with thanks and praise! 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 *unison*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the Highest!**

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

Leader: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world:

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world:

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world:

**People: Grant us peace.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

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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: We go giving praise and thanks to the Lord!

**People: May God bless us in our ministries of grace.**

Leader: May God heal us in the power of the Spirit.

**People: May God restore us in health and strength.**

Leader: May God’s shepherds enfold us with great care.

**People: Under God’s wing we shall protect and provide.**

Leader: May God be with us in our time apart.

**People: And may God be with us till we meet again!**

\*HYMN No. 345 ***God Be with You Till We Meet Again***

\*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE **“Prelude in B-Flat”** J. S. Bach

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***Welcome to the OCC!***

Thank you for being in worship today!

Join us for refreshments following the service.

May the Lord grant you all good gifts of the Spirit!

**IN OUR PRAYERS…**

 **Lynnete Beaudro,** in our prayers of safety in Qatar.

 **Mary Williams**, for healing and recovery.

 **Pastor Ken** for his upcoming surgery and a speedy recovery.

 **Elizabeth Enegren,** for continued strength and recovery after surgery.

 **Ann Conaty,** for strength in recovery.

 **Wayne “Mac” and Judy McCormack,** for peace and calm during his

 illness.

 **Tina Upham**, for encouragement with healing.

 **Deb and George Labonte and Family,** on the recent passing of their

 son George Labonte Jr.

 **Sherri Alleman,**  for healing and strength in recovery after surgery.

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**Life of the Church**

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

THANK YOU TO TODAY’S LITURGIST**:**

THANK YOU TO TODAY’S USHERS**: Gordon and Sue Wetmore**

THANK YOU TO TODAY’S COUNTERS: **Bob Casavant and Jerry Long**

**WELCOME PASTOR LORI**

Next Sunday, September 8th, we welcome Pastor Lori Bruni, as our guest pastor to provide pastoral coverage during Pastor Ken's medical leave.

An MDiv graduate of Chicago Theological Seminary, Pastor Lori is completing her process towards ordination in the UCC.  She resides in Weymouth with her spouse Anthony and beloved cat Lucy.  They have three adult children and are expecting a grandchild in October!   Please come and meet Pastor Lori next week.

**CALENDER:**

 Wednesday, September 4th 9:00am Kitchen Elves

 1:30pm Knit one Pray Two

 5:00pm Volunteer Supper

 Thursday, September 5th: 6:00pm Bells Rehearsal

 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

 Saturday, September 7th: 9:00am Wrentham Day

 Sunday, September 8th: 10-12pm CKC Registration Carnival

 11:00am Fair Committee meeting



**We need YOU to welcome GOD!**

The Original Congregational Church is in need of NEW ushers/greeters

and communion helpers!!!!

Ask yourself, ‘How can I serve my church?”

“How can I serve God?”

Please email Monica at monica@occhurch.net if you are interested

or have any questions.

OR….

Come to the Welcome Back Potluck Dinner on **September 4th** to meet others

and get involved!

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**The Kitchen Elves NEED YOUR HELP.**

**The Elf’s begin again Wednesday, September 4th!! Yay!!**

If you would like to help with meal prep and love to peel veggies, show up at 9 am the first Wednesday of every month. Or, would you like to bake cookies every couple of months or perhaps can you deliver 3-4 meals once a month…please notify our Elf Team by contacting Pearl at  pgottberg@hotmail.com or Sue Schwarm at  Sue.schwarm@gmail.com.

Bakers make 60 cookies a month and deliver them to Fellowship Hall the night before Elves, or by 9:30 that morning. Drivers arrive at noon on Elf Day, and are done in about an hour. You can also call on our cell phones. Even if you can help once in a while, we would love to have you join us.

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**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.

**THE ORIGINAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

 **1 East St. P.O. Box 657, Wrentham, MA 02093**

 **Office: 508-384-3110 Website: www.occhurch.net Facebook**

 **Senior Pastor: Reverend Kenneth C. Landin**

**Music Director/Organist: Justin Kisch**

**Bells Director: Martha Goodman**

**Community Coordinator, Lead Soprano: Monica Yohn**

**Sextons: Bob & Sandy Cummings**

**Summer Office Administrator: Donna Charbatji**

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