



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, December 15th, 2024, 10:00am
Third Sunday of Advent

*This is the true joy in life,
the being used for a purpose...
a mighty one.*

—George Bernard Shaw

Order of Worship

PRELUDE “**Rejoice in the Lord Always**” Traditional, sung by the choir

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.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE *of Joy*

*HYMN No. B-2 ***We Hail You God’s Anointed** blue binders*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Holy God, you cover the earth with love, joy and hope like flowers.

We confess we have let the darkness in the world diminish our faith.

Forgive us our unbelief. Renew us in your Spirit. May we be strengthened in your presence to help the poor and needy, and to turn dark days into light. Lift up our souls in our time in worship with you. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

*All those who are able, please stand.

(1)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Receive these words of assurance.

This is the great good news of faith: God brings us home. In the Spirit we are at home in the Lord's love and compassion for the world. In Christ, our sins are forgiven. Our shame is turned to honor. Our suffering is redeemed, for the Lord loves the world and holds all life as precious to behold and worthy to sing praise.

People: Glory be to God! 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 Isaiah 12*

Leader: Surely God is our salvation.

People: Trust and be not afraid.

Leader: The Lord is our strength and might.

People: You will draw water from the wells of salvation with joy.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord.

People: Make known God's deeds among the nations.

Leader: Sing praises to God's glorious generosity.

People: Sing for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

*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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4:4-7 "Rejoice in the Lord Always"

ANTHEM "O Day of God, Draw Near"

Words: Robert Scott; Music: Traditional

SCRIPTURE READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20 “The Lord Rejoices with Gladness”

SERMON “Joy as an Act of Faith”

*HYMN No. 158 *Good Christians All, Rejoice*

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 & SERVICE

Leader: It is our joy to share in God’s work in the world.

People: We return our gifts to God with great gladness!

OFFERTORY *“Tell Out, My Soul”*

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024); Music: Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)

*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: Holy God, we dedicate our gifts to you.

People: Bless us with your great love and joy.

Leader: Increase our ministry of care and concern.

People: Turn these winter days into days for light!

*SENDING & COMMISSIONING

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

Leader: Let us go rejoicing in the Lord!

People: Lift up every heart.

Leader: Lift up every voice.

People: We shall rejoice in God's glorious hope!

*HYMN No. B-22 *Rejoice! The Lord is King* blue binders

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE "In Dulci Jubilo (Good Christians All, Rejoice)"

Johann Michael Bach

Welcome to the OCC!

Thank you for being with us today.

Join us for refreshments in our hall following the service.

May God watch over you and your loved ones with love and joy!



Share your love of the Church with those you know!
Ask them to come to Service with you!
Introduce them to others at Coffee Hour!
Bring them to an event!
Let's build our community
ONE PERSON AT A TIME!!!!

Life of the Church

SUNDAY PRAYER REQUESTS are located on the worship table.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Lynnete Beaudro, in our prayers of safety in Qatar, recent loss of Yvonne.

Mary Williams, for healing and recovery.

Judy McCormack and Loved Ones, for peace and comfort on the recent passing of Mack.

Joseph Botaish, II, for love and support during a time of illness.

Steven Wilson, for healing during time of treatments.

Today's Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGIST: **Heather Castelo**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Stephen Becker, Alice Gero, Kim Kelly & Trevor Knott**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Trevor Knott & Bob Boissy**

CALENDER:

Wednesday, December 18th	12:00pm 1:15pm	Lunch Bunch Trivia
Thursday, December 19th	10:00am 11:00am 7:30pm	Pond Home Worship Service Maples Home Worship Service Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, December 22nd	10:00am 11:00am	Worship Fellowship Hour

PLEDGE PLEA

With our church year winding down, it would be helpful if any pledges made for 2024 and not yet satisfied could be paid before the end of December.

This will help with our budgeting process as we prepare for our Annual Meeting in January. Thank you!

We are offering the opportunity to remember a loved one with a gift of \$12, per listing, which will be collected in honor or memory of your loved ones.



Those being remembered and those making the donation will be listed in the December 24th bulletins. There will be poinsettias used to decorate the sanctuary; purchased from the Flower Fund.

Please make checks payable to OCC with **"Flower Fund"** in the memo. Please have all orders in to the office by the December 18th deadline. Thank you.

THE RETURN OF THE NAME TAG BASKET

Back by popular demand, the Fellowship Hall Name Tag Basket will once again be located on the table by the rear door to the hall. Now after socializing after Sunday service, you can pop your name tag in the basket as you exit the rear door.

(No more traipsing back to the name tag board by the office.)

Come Sunday, your name tag will appear back in the name tag board. Magic!

UPCOMING EVENTS

12/24 5:00pm - Christmas Pageant

12/31 5-9:00pm - New Year's Eve Family Dinner & Countdown*

**Please save your bubble wrap and drop it at the church anytime before then to be used during this event.*





**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**

**Pastor: Pastor Ken Landin
Music Director/Organist: Justin Kisch
Bells Director: Martha Goodman
Community Coordinator, Lead Soprano: Monica Yohn
Sextons: Bob & Sandy Cummings
Office Administrator: Kristi Brytowski**