



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, December 22nd, 2024, 10:00am
Fourth Sunday of Advent

***Welcome to the OCC
A Place for Prayerful Possibility!***

Order of Worship

ORGAN PRELUDE “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” arr. Noel Jones

CHORAL INTROIT “Of Eternal Love Begotten” (Traditional)

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 Love*

*HYMN No. 148 ***Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, from you comes tender flowers and words of comfort.

We confess that we do not always see your light in the cold of winter.

Forgive us our unbelief. Let our faith grow strong as in the story of Mary and Elizabeth. Let us lift up our own story into the light of your great big story for all the world. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

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

(1)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Receive the assurances of faith.

As with the song of Mary, our soul magnifies the Lord. God has done great things! The hungry are filled. The lost are found. The broken are mended. In the power of Christ's love, our sins are forgiven. We are forever welcomed into God's House of Love and God's House of Prayer. Let our souls leap for joy for the light of God's love will lead us home!

People: Thanks 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 Luke 1 "The Magnificat"*

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord.

People: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Leader: God looks with favor on his lowly servant.

People: From now on all generations will call me blessed.

Leader: The Mighty One has done great things for me.

People: Holy is God's Name.

Leader: God's mercy is for those who honor him.

People: He has shown strength with his arm.

Leader: He has scattered the proud who have arrogant thoughts.

People: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones.

Leader: God has lifted up the lowly.

People: The hungry are filled with good things.

Leader: The rich are sent away empty.

People: The Lord has come to the aid of his children Israel.

Leader: In remembrance of God's great mercy,

People: According to the promise to our ancestors and descendants forever.

*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

Luke 1:39-45 “Mary Visits Elizabeth”

ANTHEM **“Jesus, Name Above All Names”**

Naida Hearn, arr. John F Wilson

(Incorporating “My Jesus, I Love Thee,” W. R. Featherstone, A. J. Gordon)

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5 “The One to Rule Shall Come from Bethlehem”

SERMON “Leaping for Love”

*HYMN No. 151 ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

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: Let us magnify the Lord with our gifts!

People: We present our offerings with thanks and praise!

OFFERTORY ***“Rise Up in Splendor”***

Aaron Thompson

Please join in singing (see insert)

*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, accept these our gifts we bring.

People: We dedicate ourselves to lifting up your people.

Leader: Bless all the world with good gifts of your Spirit.

People: We rejoice to share in your faith works! Amen.

*SENDING & COMMISSIONING

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

Leader: All the earth employs the songs of God!

People: The fields and floods, the hills and plains proclaim.

Leader: Let us join together in sharing this joyful song of God.

People: Let us go out to share all the wonders of God's love!

*HYMN No. 134 *Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come*

*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE **“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”** arr. James Woodman

Welcome to the OCC!

Thank you for being in worship today!

Join us for refreshments following the service.

May the Lord bless all the world with love this Christmas!

God watch over you and loved ones in traveling and gathering!

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.

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

Steven Wilson, for healing during time of treatments.

SGT. Luke Keene, in our prayers for his safety overseas.

Today's Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God

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

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Heather Castelo, Barbara Ligon,
Ned Ligon & Richard Randlov**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Alison Wade & Richard
Randlov**

CALENDER:

Tuesday, December 24th	4:00pm	Pageant Rehearsal
	5:00pm	Christmas Pageant
	10:00pm	Lessons & Carols by Candlelight
Thursday, December 26th	9:30am	Ladies Breakfast
Sunday, December 29th	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	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!



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!!!!!!

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**