



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, March 9, 2025, 10:00am
First Sunday in Lent

***In the desert we surrender ourselves to the Lord.
It is the furnace of transformation.—after Henri Nouwen***

Order of Worship

PRELUDE “Forty Days and Forty Nights” C. S. Lang

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.

GATHERING TIME No. 103 ***Jesus Loves Me!***

We greet and sing together with our little ones before CKC.

*HYMN No. 599 ***O Love, How Deep***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray.

All: In all your Glory, O Lord, your love is so deep, so high, so broad, that we may adore you forever and ever. You lovingly set before us all our days. You send us out on our path in life. We confess that we wander from your ways. We forget your words and we try to follow our own. Forgive us our sins and lead us back into your fold, in your mercy. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

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

(1)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Receive the Assurance of Faith.

And this is the great good news of our faith: we are forgiven! In Christ's love we are heard and healed, understood and undertaken, we are fashioned forever new in the presence of the Lord. God's word is very near us. In any time of trial or temptation our soul soars with the sacred sounds of God speaking in our heart, and in our caring community.

People: Thanks be to the Lord. Amen.

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 PSALM *from Psalm 91*

Leader: We live in the shelter of the Most High.

People: The Lord is our refuge and our fortress.

Leader: Dwelling with the Lord, no evil shall befall us.

People: God commands the angels to guard us.

Leader: They shall bear us up.

People: Our feet shall not be dashed upon a stone.

Leader: Our Lord says, "Those who love me shall be delivered."

People: When we call, God will answer.

Leader: Our Lord says, "I will be with you in trouble."

People: God rescues and honors.

Leader: Our Lord says, "Throughout all your years,"

People: "I will show my salvation."

*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

Deuteronomy 30:11, 14-16 “The Word Is Very Near You”

ANTHEM No. 424 **“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:1-13 “Jesus Is Led by the Spirit into the Wilderness”

SERMON “Against a Stone—Where Is Our Heart before God?”

*HYMN No. 191 *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

PRAYER NOTICES

We ask for first names and place names to be lifted up in prayer.

Leader: Loving God, for all these we have lifted up to you.

People: O Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

We invite you to be mindful of our prayer concerns.

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: God has blessed us with so much.

People: We return blessings to the Lord with our gifts!

OFFERTORY “On Eagle’s Wings”

Michael Joncas, arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*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: We place our whole lives in your care.

Leader: Use our hearts and hands in service to you.

People: Bless us to grow forever with you in faith. Amen.

*SENDING & COMMISSIONING

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

Leader: Forty days and forty nights our faith is out in the wild:

People: With sunbeams by day and chilly dew-drops at night.

Leader: We carry the Lord's words with us in constant prayer.

People: We minister to the world with God's holiness in our sight.

*HYMN No. B-11 *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

*MUSICAL RESPONSE No. 280 *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*DISMISSAL

Let us greet one another on our way!

*POSTLUDE *Improvisation*

Welcome to the OCC!

Thank you for being in worship today!

Join us for refreshments following the service.

May the Lord watch over you in this Holy Lent.

The choir is singing a medley from Jesus Christ Superstar during worship on March 23. If you would like to join us for this occasion, please let Justin know.

Life of the Church

SUNDAY PRAYER REQUESTS *are located on the worship table.*

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Mary Williams, for healing and recovery.

Steven Wilson, for healing during time of treatments.

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

Heather Castelo, for healing.

Pastor Lori Bruni, in our prayers for strength and love during a difficult time.

Becky & Chris Cuoco and Family, on the birth of Camryn Christine Flaherty.

Today's Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGIST: **Kim Kelly**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Stephen Becker, Mike Foster,
Barbara Ligon & Ned Ligon**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Joan Mello & Mike Foster**

CALENDER:

Tuesday, March 11th	6:00pm	Connections Meeting
	7:00pm	Council Meeting
Thursday, March 13th	9:30am	Ladies' Breakfast
	6:00pm	Bells Rehearsal
	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, March 16th	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall
	11:15am	Choir Rehearsal
	11:15am	New Member Welcome in Parlor
	11:15am	Outreach Meeting



PLANTS NEEDED

As we enter the Lenten season, we are asking members to share their plants with the O.C.C. during Lent, to be displayed in our **MEDITATION CORNER**, which will be on the front left side of the sanctuary.

All plants will be taken care of lovingly during its stay at the O.C.C.!

PLEASE share a NON-FLOWERING plant with us. Please put your name in the plant on a stick or on the bottom of the pot, as your plant will be returned to you.

You may drop off plants to the office during normal office hours or bring them to Service on Sunday, March 9th.

Thank you so much!!!!

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The Food Pantry is in need of creamy peanut butter, tuna in water, pasta sauce with meat and strawberry jam and grape jelly. All donations are greatly appreciated!



O.C.C. Wrentham

Upcoming Events



March

2025

MAR
9

Tea Party Committee

11:15 A.M. in Parlor

MAR
16

New Members Meeting

11:15 A.M. in Parlor

MAR
19

Lunch Bunch

12:00 P.M..

MAR
23

Pray The Psalms

11:15 A.M. in Parlor

MAR
26

O.C.C. Book Club

1:30 P.M. in Parlor

MAR
26

Spring Floral Demonstration

6:00 in Fellowship Hall

MAR
29

C.P.R. Certification Class

2:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall

SEP
17

Email Monica
monica@occhurch.net



**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**