



The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, March 30, 2025, 10:00am
Fourth Sunday in Lent

*Our question is not how to find God,
rather, how do we let ourselves be found?*
—after Henri Nouwen

Order of Worship

PRELUDE **“Ponder This in Your Heart”** Daniel Pinkham
(see page 5 for more info)

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

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

*HYMN No. 87 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, you are the good shepherd. You seek us out. You find us and welcome us home. You provide for us and prepare a place for us in your community on earth. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. Forgive us. Show us the way to live according to your word and your grace through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*All those who are able, please stand.

(1)

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Receive the Assurance of Faith.

The great good news of God is this: we are forgiven. In Christ we have a whole new outlook on life. We see the world and each other and we hear God's assurance to us: be reconciled! Through the Spirit God makes us a new creation. God entrusts us with the message of unconditional love.

People: Thank 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 Psalm 32*

Leader: Happy are those whose sin is forgiven.

People: In our silence, we were wasting away.

Leader: Heaviness was upon us day and night.

People: Our strength was all dried up.

Leader: Then we acknowledged our sins.

People: We did not hide our iniquity from the Lord.

Leader: God forgave the guilt of our sins.

People: O Lord, you preserve us from trouble.

Leader: You instruct us in the way to go.

People: Your counsel is ever upon us.

Leader: May the upright of heart rejoice in the Lord.

People: Be glad for in the Lord we are forgiven.

*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

2 Corinthians 5:16-19 “Our Ministry of Reconciliation in Christ”

ANTHEM “**Take Up Your Cross**”

Words: Charles Everest Music: Edward Broughton

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 “The Compassionate Parent”

SERMON “Lost *and* Found”

*HYMN No. 303 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

PRAYER NOTICES

We ask for first names and place names for prayer requests

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

People: O Lord, in your mercy, 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: Let us present our gifts to the Lord.

People: We lift up our offering with love and joy.

OFFERTORY “Our Father, We Have Wandered”

Words: Kevin Nichols Music: Hans Leo Hassler, arr. J. S. Bach

*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 we return our gifts and our hearts to you.

People: May this house of love be strengthened in our giving.

Leader: Let your grace flow freely in this holy space.

People: We rejoice to join all your faithful in our work in your name.

Amen.

*SENDING & COMMISSIONING

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

Leader: God calls us to the door.

People: On love God has us stand.

Leader: God will guide us through chance and change.

People: God’s hope is tried and true.

Leader: Let us go trusting in the Lord.

People: God is calling us to follow!

*HYMN No. 417 *All My Hope on God Is Founded*

*SPOKEN BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*DISMISSAL

We greet one another as we exit the sanctuary.

*POSTLUDE **“O Sacred Head Surrounded”** Johann Gottfried Walther

Welcome to the OCC!

Thank you for being in worship today!

Join us for refreshments following the service.

May the Lord watch over you and direct all your steps this week!

Your ***Outreach Committee*** supports many organizations. Today we remember four of them: Prison Book Program, Grace and Grit Woman's Home, St. Jude and the Worcester Fellowship. As you enjoy coffee and conversation today following the church service, you are invited to stop by our table in Fellowship to learn about these organizations and also to write a small Lenten blessing and word of friendship to the people who benefit from our support to these facilities. We will see that they are delivered before the Easter holiday. Thank you for your support and Happy Easter!

A Note on the Music:

Daniel Pinkham (1923-2006) was longtime organist at King's Chapel in Boston and taught music history and harpsichord at New England Conservatory. This piece asks the organist to hold down the notes of a C Major chord with weights, while playing other music on top of that chord. Thanks to Gordon for lending me his fishing weights!

The Offertory anthem **Our Father, We Have Wandered** pairs the music of the Passion Chorale ("O Sacred Head," harmonized by J.S. Bach) with lyrics alluding to the Parable of the Prodigal Son:

In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us, With calf and robe and ring.

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, on the recent passing of her son, Alessandro Bruni.

<https://tinyurl.com/ye2348yp>

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

Sherry Alleman, for preparation of her surgery tomorrow.

Peggy Mercier, on passing of her brother Joseph LeBlanc, service was on 27th.

Frank Mello, on continued recovery and health healing.

Monica Yohn & Luke B., on the passing of their dear friend, Dorothy Cozzens

Today's Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGIST: **Lesley Whittemore**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Stephen Becker, Mike Foster, Pat Wallhauser & Lesley Whittemore**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Mike Foster & Bob Casavant**

CALENDER:

Wednesday, April 2nd	9:00am	Kitchen Elves
Thursday, April 3rd	6:00pm	Bells Rehearsal
	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, April 5th	12:00pm	Pinewood Derby (FH)
Sunday, April 6th	10:00am	Bells/Worship
	11:00am	Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall
	11:00am	Walk the Stations in Parlor
	11:15am	Choir Rehearsal



O.C.C.

UPCOMING EVENTS
APRIL 2025

APR. 6 WALK THE STATIONS	11:00 A.M.
APR. 9 F, F & F EASTER DINNER	5:00 – 8:00 P.M.
APR. 13 PANCAKE BREAKFAST	11:00 A.M.
APR. 17 MAUNDAY THURSDAY	7:30 P.M.
APR. 18 GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER WALK	12:00 P.M.
APR. 20 EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES	6:00 A.M. Sunrise or 10:00 A.M.
APR. 26 YARD SALE DROP-OFF	1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

 CONTACT MONICA FOR MORE INFO: [508-384-3110](tel:508-384-3110) MONICA@OCCURCH.NE.T




Yard Sale Donations Needed

Donations are needed for the upcoming Yard Sale on May 17th. The drop off day is April 26th from 1-3pm, but donations can be dropped off at the office beforehand, any time from 9am to 3 pm, Tuesday through Friday.

Thank you!

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!



Food Pantry Needs



**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**