



a **new** thing

Isaiah 43:16-21

The Original Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Sunday, April 6th, 2025, 10:00am
Fifth Sunday in Lent
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Welcome to the OCC this morning!

Please walk our Lenten Stations in the parlor today.

Order of Service

PRELUDE “**Lead Us, O Father**” W. H. Burleigh, J. Lamont Galbraith
Monica Yohn, soprano; Kent Jones, baritone

GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: And also with you!

WELCOME & ONA COVENANT *printed on back*

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Announcements are made for our parish life.

GATHERING TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Activities follow our gathering time and prayer.

*HYMN No. 202 ***When I Survey the Wondrous Cross***

CONFESSION

Leader: Let us pray together.

All: Holy God, the whole realm of nature is yours. In your great love we lift up our heart and soul and life. We confess that we have withheld our love for you and one another. Forgive us our unbelief. Refresh us in our time of worship. Make us a new creation in your tender care and mercy. Bless us with all the good gifts of your Spirit. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

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

(1)

ASSURANCE

Leader: The great gifts of faith are all around us.

People: In the Lord we are made a new creation.

Leader: We are reconciled with God in the Spirit.

People: In the love of Christ, we are forgiven.

Leader: We are blessed in the presence of the Lord.

People: Praise be to God! Amen.

BELLS “**Beneath the Cross of Jesus**” arr. Ron Mallory

Wrentham wRingers

RESPONSIVE PSALM *from Psalm 126*

Leader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

People: We were like those who dream.

Leader: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

People: And our tongue with shouts of joy.

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us and we rejoiced.

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

Leader: May those who sow in tears,

People: Reap with shouts of joy.

Leader: May those who go out weeping,

People: Come home with shouts of joy.

*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 Isaiah 43:16-21

BELLS “**In the Cross of Christ I Glory**” arr. Cathy Moglebust

Wrentham wRingers

SCRIPTURE John 12:1-8

SERMON *Ambassadors for Christ*

*HYMN No. 112 *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

PRAYER NOTICES

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

Leader: Loving God, receive our prayers in your mercy.

People: O Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

We invite you to meditate with our prayer requests.

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 return our love to the Lord.

People: We present our gifts with praise.

Leader: Let us join together in strengthening the church.

People: We rejoice to share in God's work together.

OFFERTORY "O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded"

Words: Bernard of Clairvaux, Paul Gerhardt; tr. Robert S. Bridges;

Music: David Hurd

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

People: Bless us in our ministries of grace.

Leader: Increase our outreach in your name.

People: We rejoice to be in communion together. Amen.

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 *(see insert)*

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 *(see insert)*

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

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: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

People: May God's face shine upon us and send us out in grace.

Leader: May the Lord look upon you with loving kindness and give you peace.

People: We go into the world proclaiming the Lord of love and new life.

*HYMN No. 189 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

*BENEDICTION

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

*DISMISSAL

*ORGAN POSTLUDE “**Beneath the Cross of Jesus**” Arr. Wilbur Held

Welcome to the OCC!

We are so glad to have you join us in worship today.

Please join us for refreshments after worship.

May God guide you with love through these days of Lent.

Stephanie Page has spent over 3 decades in nonprofit social justice organizations in low-income communities in the Northeast and Southeast US. She graduated from Andover Newton Theological School in 2014 with a MA in Theological Studies. From 2014-2023, she was the Executive Director at Abby’s House, a Worcester nonprofit that serves women experiencing homelessness and trauma. Stephanie recently completed a 12-month planned sabbatical and is now serving as Executive Director of Sacred Threads, a Boston area non-profit committed to serving women’s spiritual needs in their everyday life. Stephanie is pursuing ordination in the UCC and is humbled to serve area congregations in Central MA as a guest worship leader. She also enjoys being on her family's fruit and vegetable farm and spending time with her two children, ages 20 and 23.

A note on the music

Lead Us, O Father: I found this piece while digging through the choir files. The lyrics are by William H. Burleigh (1812-1871), a hymn-writer and reformer. Burleigh was a member of the Unitarian Church. The music was written by John Lamont Galbraith (1870-1930) in 1911. Galbraith was a composer and organist who was born in Scotland and died in Virginia.

O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded: This new melody was composed by the African American composer David Hurd. The editors of the hymnal *Wonder, Love, and Praise* point out that pairing new music with old texts forces us to examine the text anew. “The point of Dr. Hurd’s fine tune is not to replace the great German chorale; it is, rather, to say through musical sound some things about the text which the chorale cannot... By internalizing the melodic and harmonic patterns of the Blues, [Hurd] has gotten to the ‘wail’ of the text.”

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>

Sherry Alleman, for healing after her surgery.

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

Frank Mello, on continued recovery and health healing.

Today's Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S LITURGIST: **Pam Jennette**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S USHERS: **Kim Kelly, Barbara Ligon, Ned Ligon, Joan Mello & Gordon Wetmore**

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S COUNTERS: **Alison Wade & Bob Boissy**

CALENDER:

Tuesday, April 8th	7:00pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 9th	5:00pm	Food, Fun, Friends
Thursday, April 10th	9:30am	Ladies' Breakfast
	6:00pm	Bells Rehearsal
	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, April 12th	9:00am	Pancake Breakfast Set-up
Sunday, April 13th	10:00am	Palm Sunday Worship
	11:00am	Pancake Breakfast



**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 MAUNDY 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:
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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!



**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
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Pulpit Fill In: Stephanie Page
Music Director/Organist: Justin Kisch
Bells Director: Martha Goodman
Community Coordinator, Lead Soprano: Monica Yohn
Sextons: Bob & Sandy Cummings
Office Administrator: Kristi Brytowski