



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

July 26, 2020

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

9:55 am

Whether you are here with us in person or joining us online we welcome you to worship. For the safety of those around you, please remember to keep a safe distance from others, wear your mask and abstain from singing. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ann-Marie Illsley and Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are God's church,

People: We come together to worship.

Leader: God has given us God's word,

People: We come together to learn from God.

Leader: God has filled us with power as disciples,

People: We go out to bring God's people together.

Leader: God has called us into one human family,

People: We come together to share our lives.

Leader: God has put God's words on our lips,

People: We go out to tell the world about God's eternal love.

Leader: God has given us the Holy Spirit,

People: We come together to celebrate.

Leader: God has showered us with the riches of the kin-dom,

People: We go out to share God's goodness with others.

Leader: God has freed us from our past,

People: We come together to move forward.

Leader: God has planned for a glorious future for us,

People: We go out to live our lives to please God.

Leader: We are God's Church,

People: We come together to worship!

OPENING PRAYER

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

SONG

'The Oneness of Everything'

Jim Scott

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Gracious and Redeeming God, we find our lives in you. We are sustained by the body that you have called us to. We find ourselves in awe and amazement over the wonders and miracles that you perform for our benefit. And yet, we do not always devote ourselves fully to you. We hear the call to share all that we have with our brothers and sisters, we hear your call to

respond to those among us who are in need, and we do not heed your call. We are glad to receive the goodness that comes from a life in the body of Christ, but sometimes we find ourselves hesitant to return that goodness when it seems hard. We are happy to give freely when it is comfortable to do so, but true sacrifice is a struggle we are too happy to avoid. Forgive us God. Forgive us when we shut ourselves off, and when we keep our best fruits for ourselves. Help us to open our hearts and our eyes to all of your children. Help us to devote ourselves fully to you and to your people. Continue to perform your wonders, but use us as your instruments and not only as recipients. Give us the courage and the strength to live a life in full faith and devotion to you. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:42-47

The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

SPECIAL MUSIC

'What Have We Done for the Poor Ones?'

Lori True/Mary Howarth

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father (Creator), 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

Embraced and enfolded into the family of God, in gratitude for all that God has provided, let us respond generously with our time, our talents, and our finances to our church's resources. May what we offer be shared with the whole of the family of God. We will now receive the morning's offering.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SONG

'The Fire of Commitment'

Mary Katherine Morn/Jason Shelton

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

Ann-Marie Illsley

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Sylvia Berry, Accompanist