



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



June 28, 2026

10:00 am

AN ASTERISK IN THE BULLETIN INDICATES THAT ALL FOR WHOM IT IS COMFORTABLE SHOULD RISE FOR THAT PART OF THE SERVICE

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matt Howard

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

'All Are Welcome'

(Haugen)

CALL TO GATHERING¹

Leader: Creator God, you made us all different,

ALL: and we rejoice in those differences.

Leader: Companion Christ, you called each person into your body,

ALL: and we welcome each others' contribution.

Leader: Renewing Spirit, you encourage us to explore new ways,

ALL: and we are excited by new opportunities.

OPENING PRAYER¹

*HYMN

'We Are Living, We Are Dwelling'

No. 472

*PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE²

Leader: Jesus said, "Everyone is welcome into my kingdom, especially those on the margins."

ALL: We say, "Everyone is welcome into the kingdom, except those on the margins."

Leader: Jesus said, "Everyone is equal in the eyes of God."

ALL: We say, "We have made a nice, hierarchical Church where it's clear who holds power."

Leader: Jesus said, "Everyone is made in the image of God."

ALL: We say, "God is male, white, Western and definitely heterosexual."

Leader: Jesus said, "Nothing is impossible to God."

ALL: We say, "We would rather stick to the things we know are possible."

Leader: Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

ALL: We say, "I'll love my neighbor as long as they are the same as me."

Leader: Jesus said, "Sell all you have and follow me."

ALL: We say, "I would rather leave Jesus and his challenging statements at the Church's door."

Leader: Jesus said, "Feed the hungry."

ALL: We say, "I think that means feed myself first."

Leader: Jesus said, "I have come to turn the world and its values upside down."

ALL: We say, "We have turned the world back up, the right way." O God, help us to speak more like Jesus. Help us to live more like Jesus. Help us to show the light Jesus showed to the world.

Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE³**

ALL: I am a lovable, creative person, made in the likeness of God. I give myself permission to enjoy being myself - to love without fear of rejection, to create with imagination, to change without dread of the future, to use my power responsibly, to work for justice and peace, and live as a singer and dancer, within God's all embracing being. Amen.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

'His Eye Is On The Sparrow' (vs. 1)

No. 82

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco

SCRIPTURE *Psalm 13 & Matthew 10:16-20, 26-27, 30-31, 40-42*

Psalm 13

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

¹ How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

² How long must I bear pain^[a] in my soul

and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

³ Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

⁴ and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";

my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

⁵ But I trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

⁶ I will sing to the Lord

because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Matthew 10:16-20, 26-27, 30-31, 40-42

Coming Persecutions

¹⁶ "I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the gentiles. ¹⁹ When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you at that time, ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Whom to Fear

²⁶ "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.

³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Rewards

40 “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, 42 and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

SERMON

“Are We There Yet?”

Rev. Katrina Clinton

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Alex Green

During this time, we invite you to embrace the transition from hearing the word to gathering ourselves in prayer by taking a moment for quiet reflection either in your pew, or by coming forward to light a candle to give light to the prayer(s) on your heart that have no words to be expressed.

Come and Light a Candle...



PASTORAL PRAYER

Blessed are your children, God.
Blessed are the sacred weird ones.
Blessed are the holy, and wholly, different.
Blessed are the ones who are too loud, too bold, too wild, too much.
Blessed are your children God.
Blessed are your gay, lesbian, and bisexual children.
Blessed are your trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming children.
Blessed are your children who we are all learning to name, describe, and know.

God, we thank you,
Because you make no mistakes, and your way is love.

Blessed are your children, God.
Blessed are those who have come out.
Blessed are those who cannot.
Blessed are those who are still finding their way.

God, we thank you,
Because you make no mistakes, and your way is love.

Blessed are your children, God.
Blessed are those who feel boxed in.
Blessed are those who feel shackled by tradition.
Blessed are those who are suffocated by the roars of expectation.

God, we thank you,
Because you make no mistakes, and your way is love.

Blessed are your children, God.
Blessed are those who struggle with self-harm and self-hatred.
Blessed are those who strive to accept the person they see in the mirror.
Blessed are those who strain each day just to survive.

Blessed are your children, God.
Blessed are those who persist.
Blessed are those who persevere.
Blessed are those who prove to the world each day that diversity is *divine*.

God, we thank you,
Because you make no mistakes, and your way is love.

Blessed are your children, God.
Blessed are the chosen families who have taken in the lost and forgotten.
Blessed are the friends and family who have helped rewrite the stories of lives.
Blessed are the allies who have loved those unable to love themselves.

Blessed are your children, God.
Blessed are those whose ancestral queer footsteps we walk in.
Blessed are those who marched and marched and marched before us.
Blessed are those who have dared to dream and dared to demand justice.

God, we thank you,
Because you make no mistakes, and your way is love.

Blessed are your children, God.
Every. Single. One of them.

And blessed are we as we:
Tirelessly,
Courageously,
Imaginatively,
Imperfectly,
Co-create with you a world where all people know and feel and have love.

All sexualities.
All genders.
All gender expressions.
All families.
All bodies.

Holy One: guide us toward your strange, boundless, undefinable love. And when we are met with the sneers, side-eye, and projected shame of the world, remind us who walks this journey with us...

You - the One who has shattered every norm, every box, every shackle that holds us down and calls us to do the same. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray together saying...

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*in unison*)

Our Creator (Father) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kin-dom 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY 'Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around' (African-American/Hughes/Dilworth)

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** 'Every Time I Feel The Spirit' (vs. 1) No. 592

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION⁴**

***HYMN** 'In The Midst Of New Dimensions' (Lyrics Insert)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE 'Every Time I Feel The Spirit' (Traditional/Nix)

Participating In Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor
Alex Green, Music Director
Abigail Nordan, Soloist
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter
Dani Kardisco, Faith Formation Director

¹Lees, Janet. "The Body Meets..." *Courage to Love: Liturgies for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community*, Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, Ohio, 2002, p. 29.

²B., Suzi. "Jesus Said." *Courage to Love: Liturgies for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community*, Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, Ohio, 2002, pp. 92–93.

³Wallace, W L. "I Am A Lovable, Creative Person." *Courage to Love: Liturgies for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community*, Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, OH, 2002, p. 4.

⁴Louie, Paul. "The Blessing of Diversity." *Courage to Love: Liturgies for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community*, Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, OH, 2002, p. 64.

All Are Welcome (Haugen)

Let us build a house where love can dwell
And all can safely live
A place where saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive
Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where hands will reach
Beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve, and teach
And live the Word they've known
Here the outcast and the stranger
Bears the image of God's face
Let us bring an end to fear and danger
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place

Let us build a house where all are named
Their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured taught and claimed
As words within the Word
Built of tears and cries and laughter
Prayers of faith and songs of grace
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter
All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place

472 We Are Living, We Are Dwelling

1. We are liv - ing, we are dwell - ing in a grand and
 2. Will you play, for - ev - er stall - ing? Will you dal - ly
 3. Sworn to yield, to wa - ver, nev - er; con - se - crat - ed,

aw - ful time, in an age on ag - es tell - ing,
 far be - hind? Up! To work! For God is call - ing!
 born a - new; sworn to be Christ's peo - ple ev - er,

to be liv - ing is sub - lime.
 Give your strength, your heart, your mind!
 O to Christ be ev - er true.

See the wak - ing of the na - tions to a wid - er
 See the plan of God un - fold - ing. Seek for good with
 O let all the soul with - in you spread the word of

WORDS: Arthur C. Cox, 1840, alt.; st. 2 adapt. Ruth Duck, 1995
 MUSIC: Thomas J. Williams, 1890

EBENEZER
 87.87D

Adapt. © 1995 Ruth Duck

u - ni - ty. Hear it sound - ing: all cre - a - tion's
 all your might. Still the cross of Christ be - hold - ing,
 truth a - broad! Move! Let ev - 'ry nerve and sin - ew

groan - ing to be whole and free.
 on, right on - ward for the right!
 tell on ag - es, tell for God.

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Unison

1. Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, why should the
 2. "Let not your heart be trou-bled," his ten-der
 3. When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er

shad-ows come, why should my heart be lone-ly
 word I hear, and rest-ing on his good-ness,
 clouds a-rise, when song gives place to sigh-ing,

and long for heaven and home, when Je-sus is my
 I lose my doubts and fears; though by the path he
 when hope with-in me dies, I draw the clos-er

por-tion? My con-stant friend is he: his eye is
 lead-eth but one step I may see: his eye is
 to him, from care he sets me free: his eye is

WORDS: Civilla D. Martin, 1905
 MUSIC: Charles H. Gabriel, 1905

SPARROW
 fr. w. refrain

on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me; his
 on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me; his
 on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me; his

eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.
 eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.
 eye is on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

Refrain Harmony
 I sing be-cause I'm hap-py, I'm hap-py, I
 I'm hap-py,

sing be-cause I'm free, I'm free, for his eye is

on the spar-row, and I know he watch-es me.

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Refrain

Ev-ery time I feel the Spir-it mov-ing in my heart, I will

pray. Yes, ev-ery time I feel the Spir-it mov-ing

Fine

in my heart, I will pray. 1. Up-on the moun-tain, my Lord
2. Jor-dan Riv-er chil-ly and
3. I have heart-ache, I have

spoke, out his mouth came fire and smoke. All a-
cold, chills the bod-y, not the soul. Ain't but
woe, I have trou-ble here be-low. While God

WORDS: African-American spiritual

MUSIC: African-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. William Farley Smith, 1986

PENTECOST

trr.

Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

♩=100-108

round me looks so fine, ask my Lord if all was mine.
one train on this track, runs to heav-en and right back.
leads me I'll not fear, I am shel-tered by God's care.

D.C.

In the Midst of New Dimensions (J. Rush)

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways.
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?

[REFRAIN]

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.

[REFRAIN]

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again.

[REFRAIN]