



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



September 6, 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

"In football, the object is for the quarterback, otherwise known as the field general, to... hit his receivers with deadly accuracy... With short bullet passes and long bombs, he marches his troops into enemy territory... In baseball the object is to go home and to be safe."

~George Carlin~

FIRST INNING

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matt Howard

SONG

'Take Me Out to Our God's Game'

(see insert)

SECOND INNING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

ALL: We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.

One: Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

ALL: We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship God, and we rejoice!

One: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

ALL: We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!

OPENING PRAYER

THIRD INNING

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE *(in unison)*

Compassionate God, we sometimes see our relationships with others as places for competition. We want to be the best, to be seen as winners, to be admired and praised by the world. Help us to see that your desires for our lives have a different focus, and enable us to strive for what matters to you – to seek peace, to love justice, and to bring hope and compassion wherever we can. Hear us now as we come before you in silence to share what is ours alone to confess.

Moment of Silence

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRAISE RESPONSE

‘Sing Praise To God Who Reigns Above’

No. 6

FOURTH INNING

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco

FIFTH INNING

SCRIPTURE

Luke 18:15-17

Jesus Blesses Little Children

¹⁵ People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them, and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. ¹⁶ But Jesus called for them and said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁷ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

SIXTH INNING

THE WAVE

*“Baseball fans do the Wave to rally the team. Let’s do the Wave now as an offering of praise to God.”
(LED BY PASTOR JEFF)*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

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.

SEVENTH INNING

...and God rested on the seventh day....Genesis 2:2

SONG

‘Sweet Caroline’

(see insert)

**A note for our guests: during “Sweet Caroline” beach balls will be bounced around the congregation from person to person. You are more than welcome to join in the fun, but if the experience would otherwise be too overwhelming please feel free to use our quiet room at the back of the sanctuary, or to take a few minutes in our narthex, until we are finished.*

EIGHTH INNING

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY MUSIC 'God Welcomes All/Open Your Mouth And Praise The Lord'
(South African/Bell/Traditional Yoruba/Sadoh)

DOXOLOGY 'We, Your People, God Confessing' (vs 4) No. 356

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*in unison*)

God whose giving knows no ending, All that we have and all that we are comes from you, so we gladly return our gifts to you that others too may be blessed for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

NINTH INNING

CLOSING HYM 'We Are Marching In The Light Of God'

1. We are marching in the light of God...
2. We are singing in the light of God...
3. We are praying in the light of God...
4. We are playing in the light of God...

BENEDICTION

POST-GAME WRAP UP

POSTLUDE 'A Joyous Song Of Praise' (Lasky)

Participating In Todays Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor
Alex Green, Music Director
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter
Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

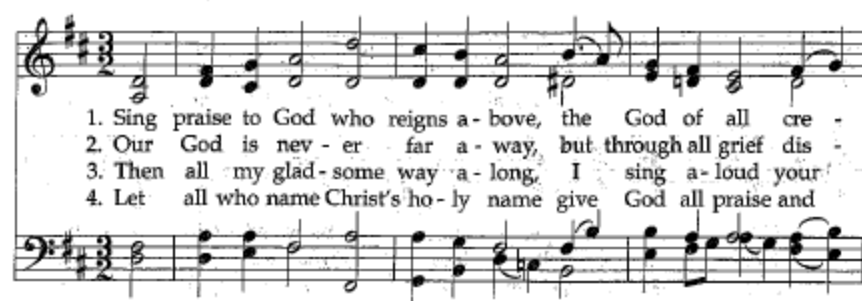
Take Me Out To Our God's Game

Take me out to our God's Game,
Let me be on God's team.
Find me some purpose, a path to tread,
Here's the Bible, I'll always get fed.
For it's root, root, root for the sermons,
The preaching's always the best!
And it's serve, pray, always have faith,
When you're on God's team!

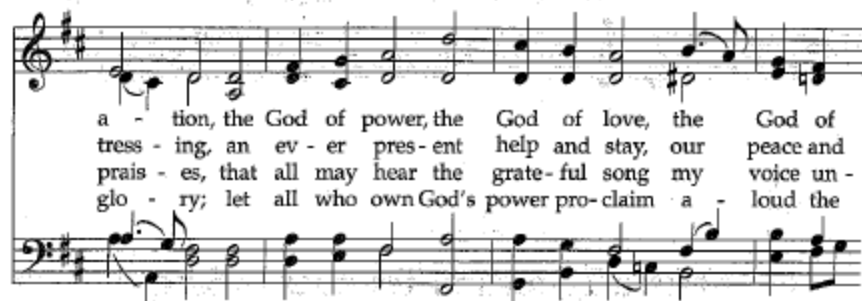
Stoughton, Brockton united!
Where we all sing and pray!
Let's meet for fellowship in our hall!
Volunteers here to lift you and all,
For it's root, root, root for God's home team,
Believers, all tried and true;
Not for one, two, or three days a year,
But our whole lives through!

Take me out to our God's game,
Where we make music ring!
Sing "Hallelujah!" and praise the Lord,
We know the songs, so we never get bored!
For it's root, root, root for our home church,
Where caring people abound.
When the worship is done, our service begins,
In our own pray-ground!

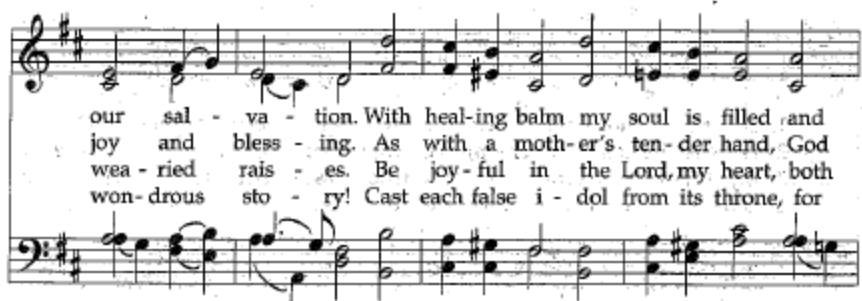
6 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above



1. Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
 2. Our God is nev - er far a - way, but through all grief dis -
 3. Then all my glad - some way a - long, I sing a - loud your
 4. Let all who name Christ's ho - ly name give God all praise and



a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of
 tress - ing, an ev - er pres - ent help and stay, our peace and
 prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song my voice un -
 glo - ry; let all who own God's power pro - claim a - loud the



our sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm my soul is filled and
 joy and bless - ing. As with a moth - er's ten - der hand, God
 wea - ried rais - es. Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, both
 won - drous sto - ry! Cast each false i - dol from its throne, for



ev - ery faith - less mur - mur still: to God all praise and glo - ry.
 gent - ly leads the cho - sen band: to God all praise and glo - ry.
 soul and bod - y bear your part: to God all praise and glo - ry.
 Christ is Lord, and Christ a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry.

WORDS: Johann J. Schütz, 1675; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1864, alt.

MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesänge, 1566; harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906

MIT FREUDEN ZART

87.87.887

♩=62-68

Sweet Caroline

Words, music Neil Diamond

Where it began, I can't begin to knowin'
But then I know it's growing strong
Was in the spring And spring became the summer
Who'd have believed you'd come along.

Hands, touchin' hands
Reachin' out, touchin' me, touchin' you

Sweet Caroline
Good times never seemed so good
I've been inclined
To believe they never would
But now I...
...look at the night
And it don't seem so lonely
We fill it up with only two.

And when I hurt,
Hurtin' runs off my shoulders
How can I hurt when holding you?
Warm, touchin' warm
Reachin' out, touchin' me, touchin' you

Sweet Caroline
Good times never seemed so good
I've been inclined,
To believe they never would
Oh, no, no

(Instrumental Break)

Sweet Caroline
Good times never seemed so good
Sweet Caroline, I believe they never could
Sweet Caroline, Good times never seemed so good
Sweet Caroline...

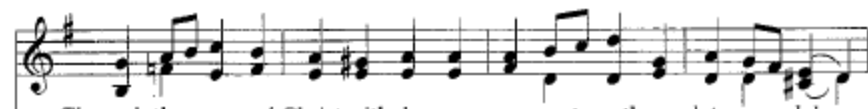
We, Your People, God, Confessing 356



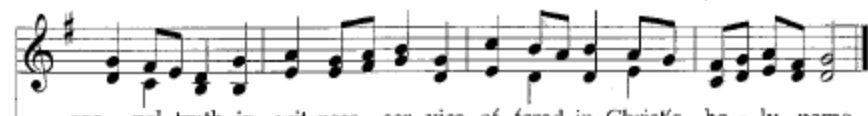
1. We, your peo-ple, God, con-fess-ing Je-sus Christ your Son as Lord,
 2. We, your peo-ple, God, re-joic-ing in your vast cre-a-tive power,
 3. We, your peo-ple, God, com-mun-ing through the Ho-ly Spir-it, here,
 4. We, your peo-ple, God, re-ceive-ing gifts of min-is-try out-poured



gath-er here in com-mon wor-ship prais-ing your In-car-nate Word.
 bind our-selves, each with the oth-er, cov-e-nant in love this hour.
 joined to-gether as dis-ci-ples, in o-be-dience now draw near.
 in the light of ho-ly scrip-ture are set free, re-freshed, re-stored.



Through the power of Christ with-in us we are strength-ened to pro-claim
 Through bap-tis-mal rite we en-ter, ris-ing, new-ly born to be
 At the ta-ble where the em-blems of Christ's sac-ri-fice are spread,
 In the bonds of faith we serve you, God of all, whom we a-dore.



gos-pel truth in wit-ness, ser-vice of-fered in Christ's ho-ly name.
 u-ni-fied with your whole peo-ple here in per-fect lib-er-ty.
 here we cel-e-brate his pres-ence with the cup and bro-ken bread.
 Yours the bless-ing, yours the glo-ry, one God, reign-ing ev-er-more!

WORDS: From the Preamble to the Design of the Christian Church
 (Disciples of Christ), adapt. 1993
 MUSIC: Traditional Dutch melody; arr. Julius Roentgen, 1906

IN BABILONE
 87.87D