



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



September 13, 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**

‘Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee’

No. 2

CALL TO GATHERING¹ *(Inspired By Psalm 103)*

Leader: Bless the Holy One! Bless God’s holy name!

ALL: Bless God our Healer, Redeemer, and Friend.

Leader: Bless the Holy One! Remember the works of God.

ALL: Bless the God who saves us, loves us, and forgives us.

Leader: Bless the Holy One! Bless the God of life and justice!

ALL: Bless the One whose love and mercy endures, but whose anger does not. Bless God, O our souls!

OPENING PRAYER¹

***HYMN**

‘We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God’

No. 64

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹** *(Inspired By Romans 14)*

ALL: Holy One, you have given us companions in life, family, friends, and neighbors. As our scripture today reminds us, “For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” Help us live in ways that reflect your goodness, righteousness, and truth. Help us to love our neighbors with the fullness of shared life, accountability, and community. Help us repair what has been damaged, redeem what has been lost, and restore what has been broken for your name’s sake. Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE¹**

***SUNG RESPONSE**

‘O God Of Love, O Power Of Peace’

No. 676

SCRIPTURE

Romans 14:1-12

Do Not Judge Another

14 Welcome those who are weak in faith^[a] but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord^[b] is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.^[c] ¹¹ For it is written,

*"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to^[d] God."*

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.^[e]

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

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...



ORDINATION OF LAURA KITTERY INTO THE DIACONATE

Ordination is a special rite by which we, the church, bless a person with the laying on of hands to confer the Spirit into their life, empowering them for service in ministry. Each member of our deacons are ordained, and ordination stands for the rest of a person's life. Please celebrate with us today as we ordain Laura Kittery into the diaconate of our church!

Covenant Promises

Leader: Laura, it is an honor to be entrusted with the responsibility of ordination in the ministry of our church. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of the diaconate, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God? If so, say, "I am."

Laura: I am.

Leader: Do you promise to exercise your ministry with the deacons diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ? If so, say, "I do, relying on God's grace."

Laura: I do, relying on God's grace.

Leader: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises made by our sister Laura who has answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with her. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

ALL: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

HYMN

'Lord, You Give the Great Commission' (vs. 1, 3, 5)

No. 459

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 GENEROSITY¹

OFFERTORY

'The Church Where Love Lives'

(Udis-Kessler/Janzen)

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

'Restless Weaver' (vs. 4)

No. 658

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION¹**



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***At Christ Congregational Church we serve communion at an open table, which means ALL are welcome to participate. This means a few things:**

1. None of the cups for communion contain wine.
2. People of all ages are welcome to receive communion.
3. People of all faiths are welcome to receive communion.
4. People of all gender identities and sexual orientations are welcome to receive communion.
5. Communion today will be received in the pews, using the pre-packaged elements of bread and juice that you received when you entered the sanctuary.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

REMEMBERING THE STORY

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

BREAKING THE BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Communion today will be shared in the pews. Please wait to consume each element until prompted by Pastor Jeff so that all may partake in communion together in the same moment as one

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ALL: God of blessing, Thank you for meeting us at this table. You have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of grace, reminding us that no one leaves your presence unchanged.

As we go into the world, make us bearers of your peace. Open our eyes to our neighbors, steady our steps in the work of justice, and give us courage to love with generous hearts.

May the hope we have shared at this table become hope we carry into our homes, our community, and the world. Amen.

*HYMN

'One Bread, One Body'

No. 393

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Variations on "Arfon" (See How Great a Flame Aspires)
(Traditional Welsh/Giamanco)

Participating In Todays Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Alex Green, Music Director

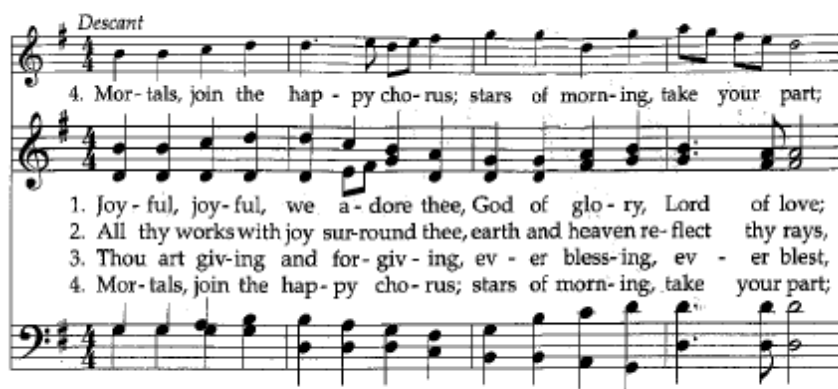
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Dani Kardisco, Faith Formation Director

¹*To Settle Accounts: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost Year A* was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Descant



4. Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus; stars of morn-ing, take your part;
1. Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore thee, God of glo-ry, Lord of love;
2. All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re-flect thy rays,
3. Thou art giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blest,
4. Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus; stars of morn-ing, take your part;



love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, bind-ing those of ten-der heart. So
hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, open-ing to the sun a-bove.
stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean depth of hap-py rest!
love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, bind-ing those of ten-der heart.



sing-ing, move we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife;
Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive our fear and doubt a-way;
Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flow-ery mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Thou our Fa-ther, Christ our Broth-er, all who live in love are thine;
Ev-er sing-ing, move we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife,

WORDS: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.
MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. Edward Hodges, 1864;
desc. Susan Adams, 1995

HYMN TO JOY
87.87D

Desc: © 1995 Chalice Press



joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.
giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth-er, lift us to the joy di-vine.
joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God 64



1. We sing your might-y power, O God, that made the moun-tains rise,
2. We sing your good-ness, sov-ereign God, who filled the earth with food;
3. There's not a plant or flower be-low, but makes your glo-ries known;



that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad, and built the loft-y skies.
you formed the crea-tures with your word, and then pro-nounced them good.
and clouds a-rise, and tem-pests blow, by or-der from your throne.



We sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day.
Oh! how your won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er we turn our eyes:
While all that bor-rows life from you is ev-er in your care,



The moon shines full at your com-mand, and all the stars o-bey.
if we sur-vey the ground we tread, or gaze up-on the skies.
and ev-ery-where that we can be, you, God, are pres-ent there.

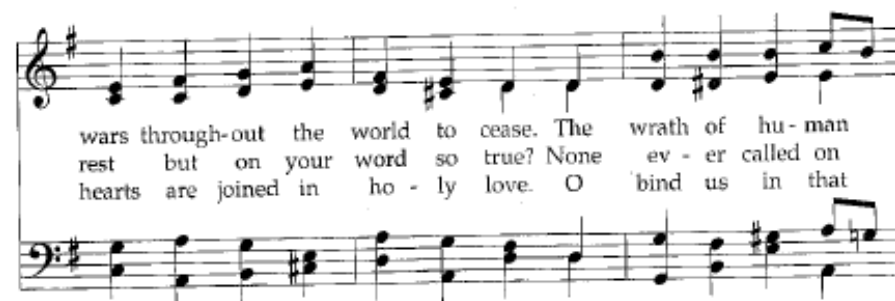
WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1715, alt.
MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle*, 1784

ELLACOMBE
CMD

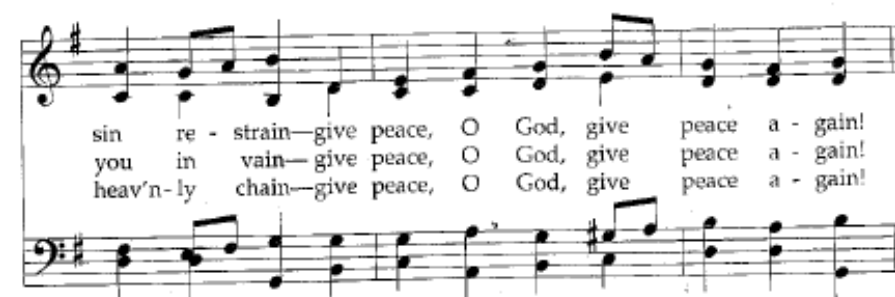
O God of Love, O Power of Peace 676



1. O God of love, O Power of peace, make
 2. Whom shall we trust, O God, but you, where
 3. Where saints and an - gels dwell a - bove, all



wars through-out the world to cease. The wrath of hu - man
 rest but on your word so true? None ev - er called on
 hearts are joined in ho - ly love. O bind us in that



sin re - strain—give peace, O God, give peace a - gain!
 you in vain—give peace, O God, give peace a - gain!
 heav'n - ly chain—give peace, O God, give peace a - gain!

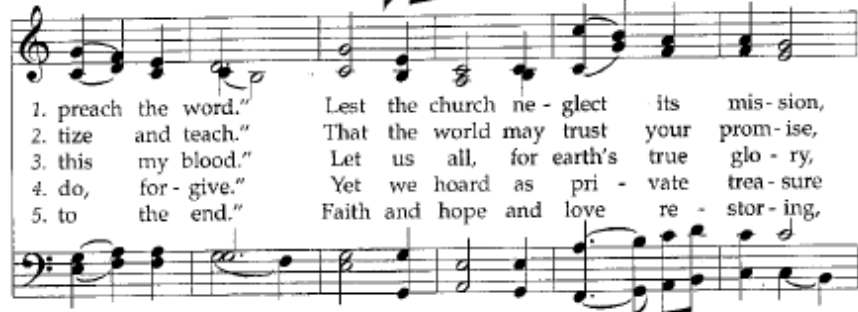
WORDS: Henry W. Baker, 1861, alt.
 MUSIC: Robert Schumann, 1839, adapt.

CANONBURY
 LM

459 Lord, You Give the Great Commission



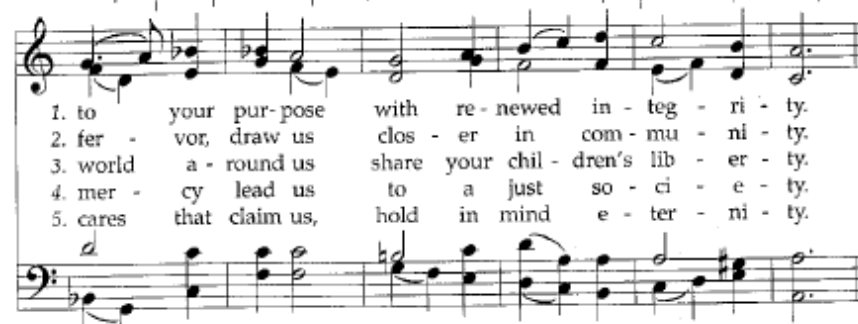
1. Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2. Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3. Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4. Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5. Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



1. preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 2. tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 3. this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,
 4. do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 5. the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



1. and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 2. life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 3. dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the
 4. all that you so free - ly give. May your care and
 5. may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



1. to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty.
 2. fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty.
 3. world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty.
 4. mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty.
 5. cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Jeffery Rowthorn, 1978
 MUSIC: Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

ABBOT'S LEIGH
 87.87D

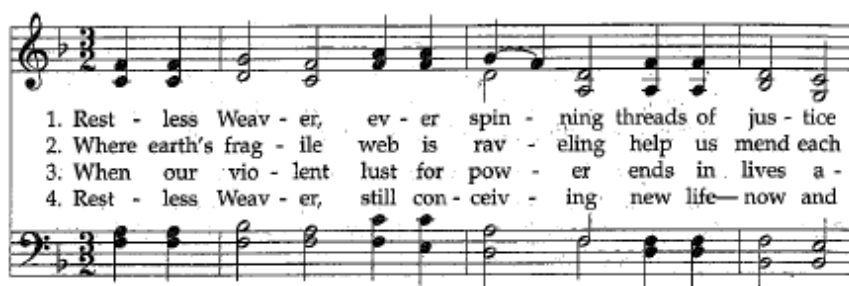
Words © 1978 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1942, renewed 1970, Hope Publishing Co.

♩=106-112

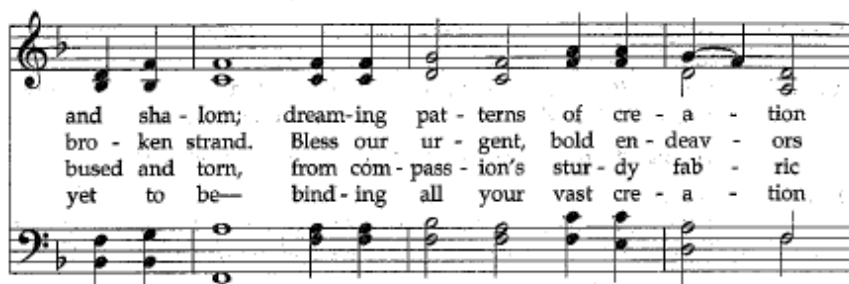
Refrain



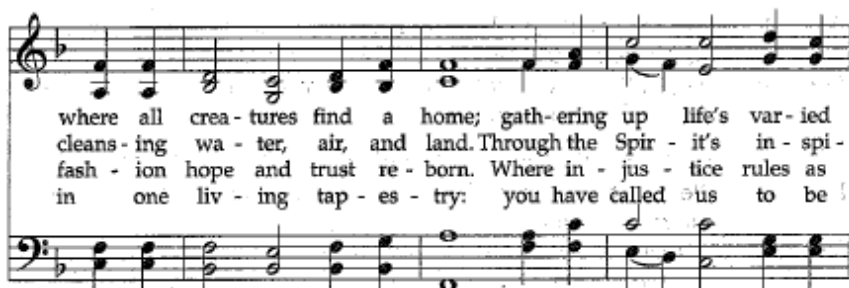
With the Spir - it's gifts em - power us for the work of min - is - try.



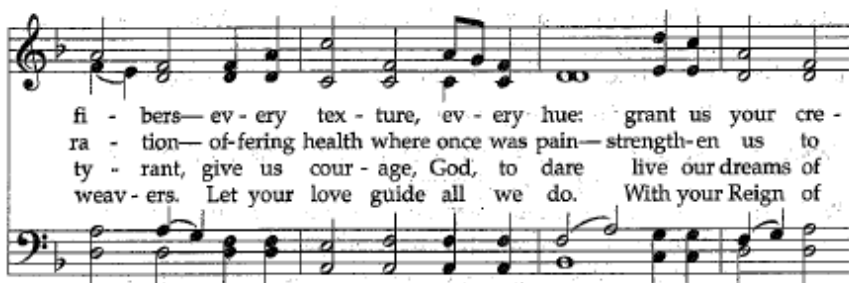
1. Rest - less Weav - er, ev - er spin - ning threads of jus - tice
 2. Where earth's frag - ile web is rav - eling help us mend each
 3. When our vio - lent lust for pow - er ends in lives a -
 4. Rest - less Weav - er, still con - ceiv - ing new life—now and



and sha - lom; dream-ing pat - terns of cre - a - tion
 bro - ken strand. Bless our ur - gent, bold en - deav - ors
 bused and torn, from com - pass - ion's stur - dy fab - ric
 yet to be—bind - ing all your vast cre - a - tion



where all crea - tures find a home; gath - ering up life's var - ied
 cleans - ing wa - ter, air, and land. Through the Spir - it's in - spi -
 fash - ion hope and trust re - born. Where in - jus - tice rules as
 in one liv - ing tap - es - try: you have called us to be



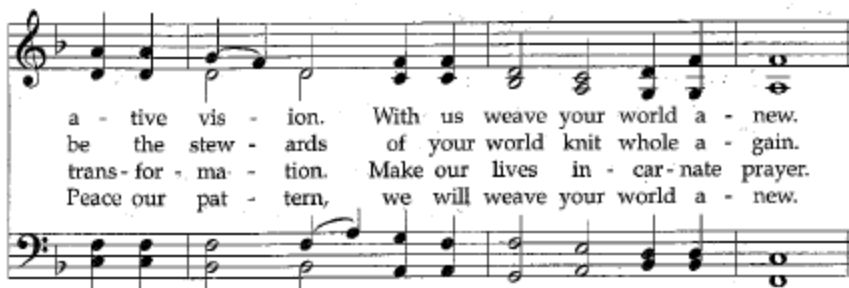
fi - bers—ev - ery tex - ture, ev - ery hue: grant us your cre -
 ra - tion—of - fer - ing health where once was pain—strength - en us to
 ty - rant, give us cour - age, God, to dare live our dreams of
 weav - ers. Let your love guide all we do. With your Reign of

WORDS: O. L. Cricket Harrison, 1988; rev. 1993
 MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White, 1844; harm. Ronald A. Nelson, 1978

BEACH SPRING
 87.87D

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$\text{♩} = 70-74$



a - tive vis - ion. With us weave your world a - new.
 be the stew - ards of your world knit whole a - gain.
 trans - for - ma - tion. Make our lives in - car - nate prayer.
 Peace our pat - tern, we will weave your world a - new.

One Bread, One Body

Refrain (Unison)

D7 G C G C G D Em B

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all,

Em D G Em A7 D7

one cup of bless-ing which we bless. And

G C G C G D Em B

we, though man-y through-out the earth,

Em D G Em A7 D7 G C (G) Fine

we are one bod-y in this one Lord.

WORDS and MUSIC: John B. Foley, 1978

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

44.6 w. refrain

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♩=104-112

Em D Em D

1. Gen-tile or Jew, ser-vant or free,
2. Man-y the gifts, man-y the works,
3. Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,

Em F Am D7

wom-an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all. One
gath-ered to one, for all.