



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

October 18, 2020

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

9:55 am

Welcome to worship! 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.

PRELUDE (9:50am)

'In This Time'
'Afternoon at Cooper's Rock'

Larry Sivis
Robert Vandall

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barry Shelley

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We belong to God.

P: God's stamp is on our lives.

L: God's love and compassion is built into us.

P: God's mercy and hope flow through us.

L: Let's celebrate the powerful presence of God.

P: Let's rejoice in all the opportunities God gives us to serve. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Matt Howard

HYMN

'What Was Your Vow and Vision' vs 1&3

No. 177

(scroll down to music)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Being baptized today are siblings Amari Martins, born April 10th, 2019 and Nevaeh Martins, born October 24th, 2015 to Amanda Jenkins and Nelson Martins. Amari's godparents are Anthony Correia and Thomas Colon. Nevaeh's godparents are Euclides Martins and Keira Vega Colon.

QUESTIONS FOR BAPTISM

Do you desire for Amari and Nevaeh to be baptized? **We do**

Do you promise to be Christ's disciple, follow Christ's way, resist evil and oppression, and witness to Christ's work and word? **We do**

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT *(please rise)

Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support, and care to these children about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ? **We do**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*remain standing*)**

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God. Do you believe in God?

PEOPLE: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

PEOPLE: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

PEOPLE: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

BAPTISMAL PRAYER

Christ be with you.

And also with you.

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED (*in unison*)

We give you thanks Holy God, mother and father of all the faithful, for these children who are today washed in the water of Baptism. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, value, love, support, nurture and befriend these new members of the body of Christ.

HYMN

'My Life Flows On' vs 1, 2, 3.

No. 619

(scroll down to music)

SCRIPTURE

Doug Anderson

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

I, Paul, together here with Silas and Timothy, send greetings to the church at Thessalonica, Christians assembled by God the Father and by the Master, Jesus Christ. God's amazing grace be with you! God's robust peace!

Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night you're in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ, before God our Father. It is clear to us, friends, that God not only loves you very much but also has put his hand on you for something special. When the Message we preached came to you, it wasn't just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions. You paid careful attention to the way we lived among you, and determined to live that way yourselves. In imitating us, you imitated the Master. Although great trouble accompanied the Word, you were able to take great joy from the Holy Spirit!—taking the trouble with the joy, the joy with the trouble.

Do you know that all over the provinces of both Macedonia and Achaia believers look up to you? The word has gotten around. Your lives are echoing the Master's Word, not only in the provinces but all over the place. The news of your faith in God is out. We don't even have to say anything anymore—*you're* the message! People come up and tell us how you received us with open arms, how you deserted the dead idols of your old life so you could embrace and serve God, the true God. They marvel at how expectantly you await the arrival of his Son, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescued us from certain doom.

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

SERMON

Ann-Marie Illsley

ANTHEM

'My Tribute'

No. 39

Alisa Cassola, soloist

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

We are living, breathing messages of God's love for the world. This is our work of faith and our labor of love and our steadfastness of hope in Jesus Christ. Like the earliest Christians, we are here in this place because of the commitment and faith and generosity of others who shared the good news of the gospel in their time. So we turn now, in our time, and share our faith and our commitment through generous giving to support the ministry of this church in Christ's name. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

'I Know That My Redeemer Liveth'

Handel

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Ken Medema

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Ann-Marie Illsley, Bridge Pastor

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Sylvia Berry, Accompanist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Lay Reader: Doug Anderson

1. What was your vow and vi - sion, re - vealed and rec - og -
 2. Was this God's call, the crown - ing of all you had be -
 3. We meet you at the wa - ter and pon - der why and

nized, Christ, when you came to Jor - dan and
 come: "Go, show and tell my com - ing, my
 how, in hope that we may fol - low where

asked to be bap - tized? Was there a sud - den
 own, my cho - sen one"? Did scrip - ture join with
 God is go - ing now, a - noint - ed by your

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1975, rev. 1994
 MUSIC: *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. Hal H. Hopson, 1986

COMPLAINER
 76.76D

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splen - dor or proph - ets, priests and kings, a
 scrip - ture, re - veal - ing in sur - prise the
 Spir - it, re - born, and en - er - gized, through

wind that stirred the wa - ters, a blur of might - y wings?
 tri - umph of a ser - vant re - ject - ed and de - spised?
 deed and word pro - claim - ing: "In Christ we are bap - tized!"

1. My life flows on in end-less song, a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion.
 2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring-ing.
 3. What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I hear the clear, though far off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?