



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

September 27, 2020

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:55 am

Welcome to worship! While we can't be together physically, we are glad to join together for worship online. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

PRELUDE (9:50am)

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Koza

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus told the fishermen,

All: Come, follow Me.

One: Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well,

All: Come, follow Me.

One: Jesus told the tax collectors despised by their neighbors,

All: Come, follow Me.

One: Jesus told the women working on the streets,

All: Come, follow Me.

One: Jesus told the poor, the orphans, the widows, and the lost,

All: You are beloved in the kingdom of God.

One: Jesus told the sick and the disabled and the beggars,

All: Your faith makes you whole and good.

One: Jesus tells us that no matter who we are, he needs us,

And that we belong to the kingdom of God.

All: Come, follow Jesus.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

'Community Of Christ'

No. 655

(scroll down to music)

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Lord of love, today we confess our sin of indifference.

**Too often we turn away so we don't have to see pain, suffering or injustice,
even when the evidence is right before our eyes.**

We don't like to feel uncomfortable.

We don't want to feel responsible.

In your great mercy, forgive us, Lord.

Teach us a new way to live.

Give us courage to love others as you love us,

and to respond to the cries of others with the humility we have witnessed in Jesus. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Kathryn Howard

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

HYMN

'Lead On, O Cloud of Presence'

No.633

(scroll down to music)

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.
We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.

In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.
He divided the sea and let them pass through it,
and made the waters stand like a heap.
In the daytime he led them with a cloud,
and all night long with a fiery light.
He split rocks open in the wilderness,
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
He made streams come out of the rock,
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

SERMON

Barry Shelley

ANTHEM

'Climbin' Up the Mountain'

Trad. Spiritual, arr. Patsy Ford Simms

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

Your offerings help our church continue their ministries. If you're able, please consider giving. Pledges and offerings can be mailed in, or online giving options are available through our church website.

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

'Bread of the World in Mercy Broken'

Trad. Spiritual, arr. Dennis Eliot

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

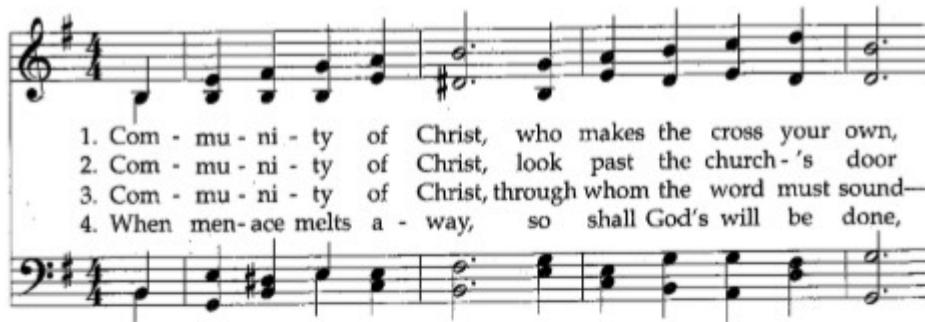
Barry Shelley

Murray Kidd, Music Director

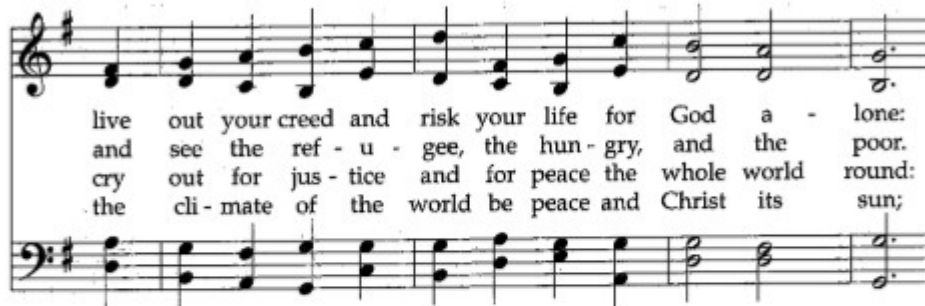
Sylvia Berry, Accompanist

Lay Readers:

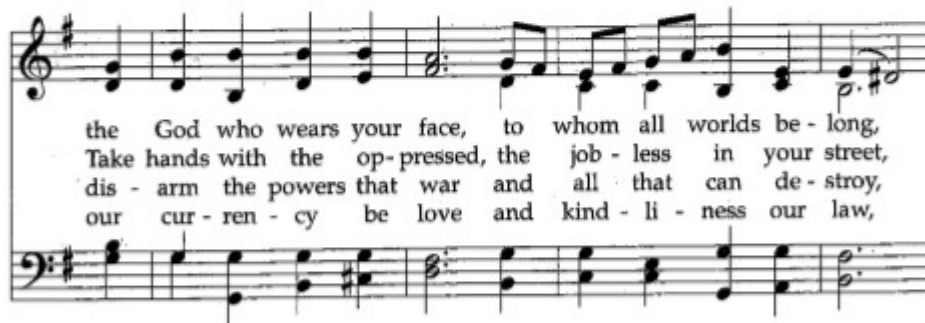
Judy Copley & Jan Howard



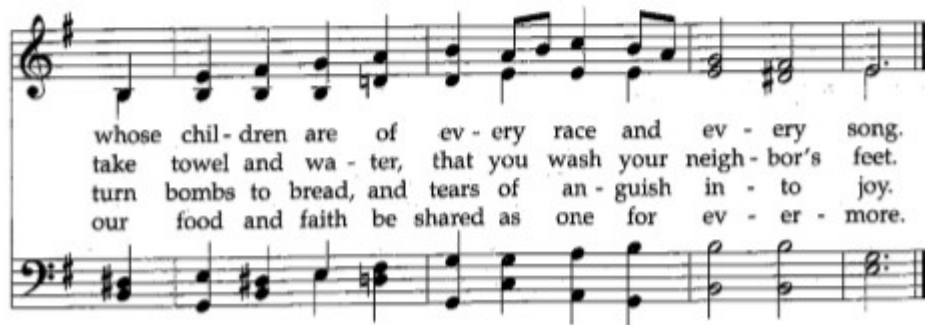
1. Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who makes the cross your own,
 2. Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church - 's door
 3. Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
 4. When men - ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,



live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:
 and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.
 cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world round:
 the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its sun;



the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,
 Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,
 dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,
 our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,



whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.
 take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.
 turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.
 our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray, 1985
 MUSIC: Hebrew melody; arr. Meyer Leoni, 1780

LEONI
 66.84D

1. Lead on, O cloud of pres - ence; the ex - o - dus is come;
 2. Lead on, O fi - ery pil - lar; we fol - low yet with fears,
 3. Lead on, O God of free - dom, and guide us on our way,

in wil - der - ness and des - ert our tribe shall make its home.
 but we shall come re - joic - ing, though joy be born of tears.
 and help us trust the prom - ise through strug - gle and de - lay.

Our bond - age left be - hind us, new hopes with - in us grow.
 We are not lost, though wan - d'ring, for by your light we come,
 We pray our sons and daugh - ters may jour - ney to that land

We seek the land of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow.
 and we are still God's peo - ple. The jour - ney is our home.
 where jus - tice dwells with mer - cy and love is law's de - mand.

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1974, rev. 1989
 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1835

LANCASHIRE
 76.76D