



**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

November 8, 2020

Twenty-Third 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)

**RINGING OF THE CHIMES**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Are you awake? Are you alert?

**People: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.**

Leader: Are you watching the signs? Are you interpreting what is happening today?

**People: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.**

Leader: Do you see opportunities for ministry? Do you see the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the needy?

**People: Christ is coming into our lives in a new way.**

Leader: Come, let us worship and let us work in the reign of God.

**People: Christ has extended the invitation: let us work together in the reign of God on earth.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN**

'Lift Every Voice and Sing'

No. 631

*(scroll down to music)*

**A TIME FOR ALL AGES**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (in unison)

Gracious and loving God, forgive us when we so easily turn our backs on you; when we choose not to help in times of need; when we utter words of anger and bitterness as ways to relate to one another. Heal our hearts and our wounded spirits. Lift us from the depths of our anguish into the light of your love that we may serve you faithfully. When the darkness becomes oppressive and we cling to our fears, O God, forgive us. Open our hearts and release us from all those things which block us from your love, for we ask these things in Jesus' name. AMEN.

**WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

**ANTHEM**

'The Following Song'

written and performed by Katrina Clinton

## SCRIPTURE

### Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

## SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

## ANTHEM

'Keep Your Lamps'

Trad. Spiritual, arr. André Thomas

## 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.

## HYMN

'Just As I Am'

No. 339

## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Matt Howard

## CALL FOR OFFERINGS

[www.brocktonucc.org/donate/](http://www.brocktonucc.org/donate/)

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

'I Know That My Redeemer Liveth'

Handel

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

**Participating in Today's Worship Service:**

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Ann-Marie Illsley

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Sylvia Berry, Accompanist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

**Lay Readers:**

## Lift Every Voice and Sing

1. Lift ev - ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring,  
 2. Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening rod,  
 3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty;  
 felt in the days when hope un - born - had died;  
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening skies,  
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet  
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea,  
 come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?  
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

WORDS: James Weldon Johnson, 1921  
 MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

LIFT EVERY VOICE  
 Irr.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;  
 we have come, tread - ing our path thru the blood of the slaugh - tered,  
 lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,  
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last  
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

# Just as I Am, Without One Plea

339

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea, but  
 2. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with  
 3. Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt  
 4. Just as I am, thy love un - known, hast

that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bid'st me  
 man - ya con - flict, man - ya doubt; fight - ings and fears with -  
 wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise  
 bro - ken ev - 'ry bar - rier down; now, to be thine, yea,

come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
 thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

WORDS: Charlotte Elliott, 1835  
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1849

WOODWORTH  
 LM