



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



September 4, 2022

9:55 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

Sue Koza

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: Like clay, we arrive at this time of worship...

People: Shapeless and full of potential, we arrive.

Leader: Like clay, we prepare for this time of worship...

People: Stretched and twisted into formation, we prepare.

Leader: Like clay, we enter this time of worship...

People: Formed and ready for warmth, we enter. Let us worship God together and be formed by God's hands.

OPENING PRAYER¹

***HYMN**

'O God of Vision'

No. 288

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹ (in unison)

O God, unlike clay we actively resist the diverse ways you shape us into what the world needs. We frequently struggle to trust in your vision for who we could become. We anxiously avoid facing the heat that protects and sustains us. We humbly confess to these and all of our shortcomings in this moment of silent reflection.

Silent Reflection

Thank you God for meeting us where we are, for forming us like the clay we are, and for being present with us at every part of our formation. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE¹

***SONG OF PREPARATION**

'Lead Me, Guide Me'

No. 583

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Jeremiah received the Lord's word: Go down to the potter's house, and I'll give you instructions about what to do there. So I went down to the potter's house; he was working on the potter's wheel. But the piece he was making was flawed while still in his hands, so the potter started on another, as seemed best to him. Then the Lord's word came to me: House of Israel, can't I deal with you like this potter, declares the Lord? Like clay in the potter's hand, so are you in mine, house of Israel! At any time I may announce that I will dig up, pull down, and destroy a nation or kingdom; but if that nation I warned turns from its evil, then I'll relent and not carry out the harm I intended for it. At the same time, I may announce that I will build and plant a nation or kingdom; but if that nation displeases and disobeys me, then I'll relent and not carry out the good I intended for it. Now say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem: This is what the Lord says: I am a potter preparing a disaster for you; I'm working out a plan against you. So each one of you, turn from your evil ways; reform your ways and your actions.

Luke 14:25-33

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus. Turning to them, he said, "Whoever comes to me and doesn't hate father and mother, spouse and children, and brothers and sisters—yes, even one's own life—cannot be my disciple. Whoever doesn't carry their own cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

"If one of you wanted to build a tower, wouldn't you first sit down and calculate the cost, to determine whether you have enough money to complete it? Otherwise, when you have laid the foundation but couldn't finish the tower, all who see it will begin to belittle you. They will say, 'Here's the person who began construction and couldn't complete it!' Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down to consider whether his ten thousand soldiers could go up against the twenty thousand coming against him? And if he didn't think he could win, he would send a representative to discuss terms of peace while his enemy was still a long way off. In the same way, none of you who are unwilling to give up all of your possessions can be my disciple.

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

IMPROVISED MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Anton Faynberg

During this time, we invite you to take a moment for quiet reflection

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.

*HYMN

'Help Us Accept Each Other'

No. 487

CALL FOR OFFERINGS¹

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

OFFERTORY

'House of God, Forever'

by Jon Foreman

*Sung by Dani Kardisco & Guitar by Ian Penn****OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

'Thank you, Lord'

No. 531

PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹****SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION*INVITATION²**

Leader: The Potter of life we with you!

People: And also with you.

Leader: People of God, lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the One who reshapes them into grace.

Leader: People of God, give thanks to our Divine Parent, the Potter, Maker of us all.

People: We praise the One who has shaped us for love and service.

Friends, this table is open to all who desire to come closer to God - for it is not *our* table, but *God's* table. Grace flows freely here to God's beloved people and this table is a place of affirmation for something that has always been true - that *you* carry the divine image of God as a very portion of yourself and are therefore invited to God's eternal feast. Here at this table we get a small but miraculous foretaste of that eternal banquet where Joy and Peace and Grace and Justice reign for eternity. No matter who you are, and no matter where you are on life's journey you are welcome and invited to this table and to God's eternal feast.

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING²**REMEMBERING THE STORY** (in unison)**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.****PRAYER OF CONSECRATION²****BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP**

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Today's communion will be shared by congregation members coming forward to receive the elements. Please wait for a member of our Deacon's board to dismiss your row, then proceed down the center aisle. When you get to the front you will receive bread from one of the pastors, then a cup of juice from one of our Deacons, followed by a tray for empty communion cups. Once you have received communion please return to your seat using the side aisle closest to your original seat.

COMMUNION MUSIC

'Simplicity'

by Rend Collective

Sung by Dani Kardisco & Guitar by Ian Penn

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(in unison)*

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN

'Lift High the Cross'

No. 108

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor
Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor
Anton Faynberg, Organist
Dani Kardisco, Soloist
Ian Penn, Guitarist
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹Langeni, Rev. Phiwa. "After Pentecost C - September 4." *United Church of Christ*, 11 Aug. 2022, <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-c-september-4/>.

²Shuman, Thom M. "Liturgy w/Communion for September 4, 2016 (Pentecost 16/Trinity 15/Proper 18/Ordinary 23 - C)." *Liturgy w/Communion for September 4, 2016 (Pentecost 16/Trinity 15/Proper 18/Ordinary 23 - C)*, 1 Jan. 1970, <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2016/08/liturgy-wcommunion-for-september-4-2016.html>. - ADAPTED



1. O God of vi - sion far great - er than all hu - man schem -
 2. Pour out your Spir - it on all now as - sem - bled be - fore
 3. Grant to us in - sight, O God, for this time of de - ci -
 4. Break the sun's rays in - to col - or; a rain - bow a - round
 5. Grate - ful, we come now by Christ's in - vi - ta - tion clear - spo -

1. ing, gath - er us now in your pres - ence, re - fresh - ing, re -
 2. you. May our di - ver - si - ty here be a means to a -
 3. sion. May we dream chal - leng - ing dreams of both depth and pre -
 4. us. Storm clouds, though real and near, are not é - nough to con -
 5. ken. We seek the nour - ish - ment found in fruit crushed and bread

1. deem - ing, Show us a - new life in your breath - tak - ing
 2. dore you. Wom - en and men, young, old, and youth - ful a -
 3. ci - sion. Speak through the dark. Dis - pel by light - ning's bright
 4. found us. Arched in the sky, beau - ty and pro - mise are
 5. bro - ken. Christ for us all! Come, let us an - swer the

1. view, love - ly be - yond all our dream - ing.
 2. gain, make us as one, we im - plore you.
 3. spark what - ev - er clouds dim our vi - sion.
 4. high, giv - ing us hope to as - tound us.
 5. call, of - fering our lives as the to ken.

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber, 1981
 MUSIC: *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665

LOBE DEN HERREN
 14 14.478

Words © 1981 Jane Parker Huber

Descant: #25

Lead Me, Guide Me

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,

for if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

WORDS: Doris Akers, 1953

MUSIC: Doris Akers, 1953; harm. Richard Smallwood

LEAD ME GUIDE ME

Tr.

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Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

Unison

1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
 2. Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3. Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4. Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,

teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for righ - teous - ness and bread,

Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance, un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on;

we are our - selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1974
 MUSIC: John Ness Beck, 1977
 © 1974, 1977, Hope Publishing Co.

ACCEPTANCE
 76.76D
 ©=64-72

1. Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord, thank you,
 2. Been so good, been so good, been so
 3. Been my friend, been my friend, been my

Lord,
 good,
 friend,
 I just want to thank you,
 I just want to thank you,
 I just want to thank you,
 Lord.
 Lord.
 Lord.

WORDS: Traditional African-American song

MUSIC: Traditional African-American melody; harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland and
 Verolga Nix, alt.

THANK YOU, LORD
 333.7

Refrain (Unison)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim

till all the world a-dore his sa-cred name.

Fine

Harmony

1. Come, Chris-tians, fol - low this tri - um - phant sign. The
2. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears
3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, your
4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise

hosts of God in u - ni - ty com - bine.
 on the brow the seal of Christ who died.
 death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
 to the cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

D.C.

WORDS: George William Kitchin and Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.
 MUSIC: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1916

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CRUCIFER
 10.10 w. refrain

♩=56-60