



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



September 11, 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 WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

**People: For once we were lost, and felt so far away; but now we have been found and welcomed home.**

Leader: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

**People: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope! Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.**

## **OPENING PRAYER<sup>2</sup>**

### **\*HYMN**

'Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven'

No. 23

## **A TIME FOR ALL AGES**

### **PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE<sup>3</sup> (in unison)**

**Loving God, present and near. You are beyond our words and our understanding. Help us to remember that You are at once infinite, boundless, timeless, and eternal - but at the same time you are intimately entwined with our lives. You are with us no matter where we find ourselves.**

**When we have forgotten You, God have mercy.**

**When we have failed to speak words of love, God have mercy.**

**When we have neglected the need of another, God have mercy.**

**Loving God, present and near, help us to recognize Your presence and nearness with us this day and every day. Through Jesus Christ our Guide and Friend. Amen.**

## WORDS OF GRACE

Friends, the good news of the gospel is that God goes to eternal and infinite lengths to meet us right where we are - no matter where that is. NO matter where you find yourself this day know this: God loves you, has always loved you, and *will* always love you - and nothing in the whole of creation could ever separate you from that love. Thanks be to God. Amen.

### \*SONG OF PREPARATION

'Give Me a Clean Heart'

No. 515

## SCRIPTURE

### Luke 15:11-32

Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them. Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

"When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death! I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands." ' So he got up and went to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, 'Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.' Then the older son was furious and didn't want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. He answered his father, 'Look, I've served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you've never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.' Then his father said, 'Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.'"

## SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

## ANTHEM

'Hungerin' In My Soul'

arr. Pepper, Choplin

## PASTORAL PRAYER<sup>4</sup>

## 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**

'Amazing Grace'

No. 546

## CALL FOR OFFERINGS<sup>5</sup>

Our lives are gifts not of our making. But rather, by our consent to Love's deep desire we are indeed remade. God is generous in this way, searching out every lost sheep or coin or beloved child until the fullness of joy rises in celebration. So we are invited to share in the sacred savoring that comes with self-giving that begins and ends in God. May our yes of giving grow Love's delight in us. We will now receive this morning's offering.

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

**OFFERTORY**

'With a Voice of Singing'

arr. Martin, Shaw

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

'Thank You, Lord'

No. 531

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION<sup>5</sup>**

O God of Love, stretch wide our hearts, open our minds, saturate our souls and form us anew in the gift of this day. Let thanksgivings rise for miracles you place in our paths at every turn. Call forth awe at the miracle of life stirring all around and within this body, not of our making but given by You to steward Your love for a season - short or long. Bless these offerings and use them for your worthy purposes to build your kin-dom. Amen.

**\*HYMN**

'Alleluia! Sing to Jesus'

No. 233

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Anton Faynberg, Organist/Pianist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

<sup>1</sup>Townley, Nancy. "Call to Worship: Prodigal Son (Luke 15)." *Call to Worship: Prodigal Son (Luke 15)*, 6 Mar. 2016, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2016/02/call-to-worship-prodigal-son-luke-15.html>.

<sup>2</sup>Hamilton, Roddy. "Prayer Reflection: Return (Luke 15)." *Prayer Reflection: Return (Luke 15)*, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2016/02/prayer-reflection-return-luke-15.html>.

<sup>3</sup>Sutcliffe, Thomas. "Re:Worship." *Confession*, Church of Scotland, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search/label/confession>.

<sup>4</sup>Reverend, Terri. "Pastoral Prayer: Prodigal Grace." *Pastoral Prayer: Prodigal Grace*, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2016/02/pastoral-prayer-prodigal-grace.html>.

<sup>5</sup>Long-Higgins, Rev. Dr. David. "After Pentecost C - September 11." *United Church of Christ*, 19 Aug. 2022, <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-c-september-11/>.



Christ Congregational  
Church, UCC  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
**ARTISAN'S, VENDORS AND  
YARD SALERS**  
**Saturday, September 24th 2022**  
**9am - 1pm**  
(Rain Date October 1st)  
Rent your own table:  
\$15 Church Members - \$25 Outside Vendors  
Or donate for the church to sell  
**Volunteers Needed!**  
Call the office to sign up (see info counter)  
or for more info  
(508)586-3022

Any help would be appreciated to make the first part of our Fall Fair Trilogy a success. Please see the information counter to sign-up to help or rent a table.

## **PLEASE JOIN US and HELP SUPPORT OUR CHURCH AND ITS MISSIONS!!!**

**Our success depends on Volunteers!!!!**

### **Save the dates:**

**YARD SALE** Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> (Rain date Oct 1<sup>st</sup>). Items for donation to the Yard sale may be brought into the church. Also, you can rent a table to sell your own items, \$15 for members, \$25 for outside vendors.

**MODIFIED FAIR** Saturday November 5th. Please plan to help as much as you are able, we will need volunteers to sort ahead of the Fair, set up, work the day of the Fair, as well as breaking down and sorting/clearing/storing in the weeks following. Many hands make light work.

Also- NOW is the time to start collecting GIFT CARDS for our December Calendar Raffle! Please drop off gift cards at the church office.

A note about Fair donations- **PLEASE** be sure your donated items are clean and serviceable. In the past we have received broken or dirty items; torn or stained clothes, some covered in pet fur. These items cannot be used and must be discarded, creating more work for our volunteers. Thank you.

# 23 Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

1. Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en, glad of heart your  
 2. Praise to God for grace and fav - or shown to all who  
 3. Moth - er - like, God tends and spares us, know - ing well our  
 4. Frail as sum - mer's flower we flour - ish: blows the wind, and  
 5. An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion you who see God

1. car - ols raise; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
 2. are op - pressed. God shows stead - fast love for - ev - er,  
 3. frag - ile frame. Fath - er - like, God gent - ly bears us,  
 4. it is gone. But, while mor - tals rise and per - ish,  
 5. face to face; sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

1. who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2. slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3. ten - der - heart - ed, slow to blame. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4. God's com - pass - ion still lives on. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 5. dwell - ers all in time and space, Al - le - lu - ia!

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all our days.  
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!  
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me praise God's name!  
 4. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the high e - ter - nal One!  
 5. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

WORDS: Henry F. Lyte, 1834; adapt. Ecumenical Women's  
 Center and Ruth Duck, 1974  
 MUSIC: John Goss, 1869

LAUDA ANIMA  
 87.87.87

♩=108-116

Give me a clean heart so I may serve

This system contains the first three measures of the song. It features a vocal line in the upper staff, a piano accompaniment in the middle staff, and a bass line in the lower staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 8/8.

thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by

This system contains the next three measures. The vocal line continues with a melodic line, while the piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

thee. For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless -

This system contains the next three measures. The vocal line has a slight pause before the word 'thy', and the piano accompaniment continues with a steady accompaniment.

WORDS: Margaret J. Douroux  
MUSIC: Margaret J. Douroux; harm. Albert Denis Tessier

DOUROUX  
Irr.

♩ = 56-60

ings. Give me a clean heart and I'll fol-low thee.

This system contains the final three measures of the song. The vocal line concludes with a final note, and the piano accompaniment ends with a cadence. The bass line also concludes with a final note.

# Amazing Grace!

546

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that  
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

WORDS: John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous  
 MUSIC: *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

NEW BRITAIN  
 CM

# Thank You, Lord

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

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus, ris - en now to reign in love.  
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans we are left in sor - row now.  
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of Heav - en, be on earth our food and stay.

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Sav - ior; with the mul - ti - tudes a - bove.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to you from day to day.

There the songs of saints and mar - tyrs thun - der like a might - y flood,  
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er,  
 In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, plead for me,

"Je - sus out of ev - ery na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."  
 shall our hearts for - get the prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?  
 where the songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1866, alt.  
 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

HYFRYDOL  
 87.87D