



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



February 5, 2023

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 'Down By the Riverside' African American Spiritual

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Sue Koza

CHORAL INTROIT 'I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me' arr. Bill Thomas;
African American Spiritual

PROCESSION WITH IMPROVISED INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP¹ (*inspired by Psalm 112:1-10*)

Leader: Praise the Holy One! Be in awe of God!

People: Happy are those who delight in the Holy One's presence!

Leader: Fear no evil. Keep your heart firm. Be secure in God!

People: Happy are those who delight in the Holy One's protection!

Leader: Arise for what is right. Be pursuers of justice.

People: Happy are those who delight in the Holy One's power!

***OPENING HYMN** 'Come, Christians, Join to Sing' No. 90

OPENING PRAYER¹

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

***HYMN** 'Many Are the Lightbeams' No. 492

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹ (*in unison*)

Righteous One, it is not easy to follow your path. Your way requires sacrifice and intention - resisting cultural norms and societal pressures and abandoning our need to control and to function from our own power. Sometimes, we add complexity in order to assure ourselves it is not possible to be faithful. Yet, your way is simple. Soften our hearts and encourage us to return to the journey with you.

WORDS OF GRACE¹ Pastor Jeff

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 58:1-9a & Matthew 5:13-20

Isaiah 58:1-9

Shout loudly; don't hold back;
raise your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their crime,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
² They seek me day after day,
desiring knowledge of my ways
like a nation that acted righteously,
that didn't abandon their God.
They ask me for righteous judgments,
wanting to be close to God.
³ "Why do we fast and you don't see;
why afflict ourselves and you don't notice?"
Yet on your fast day you do whatever you want,
and oppress all your workers.
⁴ You quarrel and brawl, and then you fast;
you hit each other violently with your fists.
You shouldn't fast as you are doing today
if you want to make your voice heard on high.
⁵ Is this the kind of fast I choose,
a day of self-affliction,
of bending one's head like a reed
and of lying down in mourning clothing and ashes?
Is this what you call a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
⁶ Isn't this the fast I choose:
releasing wicked restraints, untying the ropes of a yoke,
setting free the mistreated,
and breaking every yoke?
⁷ Isn't it sharing your bread with the hungry
and bringing the homeless poor into your house,
covering the naked when you see them,
and not hiding from your own family?
⁸ Then your light will break out like the dawn,
and you will be healed quickly.
Your own righteousness will walk before you,
and the LORD's glory will be your rear guard.
⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
you will cry for help, and God will say, "I'm here."

Matthew 5:13-20

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again? It's good for nothing except to be thrown away and trampled under people's feet.
¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷ “Don’t even begin to think that I have come to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I haven’t come to do away with them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ I say to you very seriously that as long as heaven and earth exist, neither the smallest letter nor even the smallest stroke of a pen will be erased from the Law until everything there becomes a reality. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever ignores one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do the same will be called the lowest in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps these commands and teaches people to keep them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ I say to you that unless your righteousness is greater than the righteousness of the legal experts and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

IMPROVISED MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Anton Faynberg

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

Come and Light a Candle...



RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Please join us in welcoming our newest members: Betsey Clifford, Ray Medeiros, and Sue Medeiros

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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

‘The Lord Is My Light’

Lillian Bouknight

CALL FOR OFFERINGS¹

OFFERTORY

(Chancel Ringers)

‘Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us’ (Sicilian Melody) arr. Dorothy Youngman

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

(Led by the Youth Choir & Lisa Sparling)

‘I Thank You Jesus’

No. 116

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Brothers, Sisters, and Siblings, this is the mighty feast, the joyful feast, the holy feast of and for the people of God. This table represents a level of welcome, inclusion, and imagery which can only be experience through the power of the Holy Spirit. We have come from all walks of life. We have come from a life of privilege. We have come from a life of poverty. We have either come from a life of oppression or we are oppressors. We have come as financially stable. We have come with nothing. We have come with opportunity and new mercies. The one thing we all share at this table is that we come.

Our prayer is that we come together because we are invited not by the church or the leaders but by Jesus Christ himself. This is Christ's table and we are humbly excited about serving here. Our Savior invites all who trust him to come.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God, our Creator.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks, O God of majesty and mercy.

Yet and still he offered his life in obedience and trust in God.

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray... We bless you, O God, for the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. That Holy Spirit leads us into truth, fights for justice and equality and equity, continues to gather us as believers even in the face of adversity, and moves us to be empowered by your love. It is the movement of the Holy Spirit that allows us to trust in the life, death, and resurrection which reconciles us to you.

We take great pause as your people to remember all your mighty and merciful acts.

Pause for a moment of silence

We pray, O God, that as we take this bread and this cup as a gift from you that we may celebrate with joy and hope of the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Please pour out your blessings on this bread and this cup as we remember you, your gifts, and your mystery. We pray all of this as we ponder the great mystery of our faith...

ALL: Dying you destroyed our death. Rising you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Please accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, as a willing, living, and holy sacrifice and offering of ourselves, our whole selves, that we may be honest enough to live our lives with authenticity, truth, honesty, and integrity so much so that our very lives proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Now, together let us pray as Christ taught us saying...

ALL: Our Creator (Father) 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

REMEMBERING THE STORY

On the night that he was wrongfully incarcerated, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it into pieces without the suggestion of privilege or supremacy. He gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus lifted the cup to those in need of liberation and empowerment, saying, "This cup is the new covenant, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me." Every time that you eat this bread or equity and drink this cup that pours freedom, you proclaim with your life the saving death of the risen Christ until he comes again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt and light and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world. Amen.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

**Today's communion will be served by coming forward to receive the elements. Please wait for a member of our Board of Deacons to dismiss your row to come forward, then please proceed down the ceter aisle to receive the elements at the front. Please take a piece of bread, and then consume it - and then do the same with the cup. When you have consumed the elements place your empty cup on the tray with a member of the Deacons and proceed to your seat using the side aisles. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COME FORWARD FOR COMMUNION PLEASE LET A MEMBER OF THE DEACONS KNOW AND WE WILL BE HAPPY TO BRING COMMUNION TO YOU.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM

'Let Us Break Bread Together'

arr. Noah Francis Ryder

THANKSGIVING PRAYER *(in unison)*

O God, with gratitude and praise you have blessed and fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us hope in the face of turmoil to remind us that in you - everything is already alright. Make us children of remembrance so that herstory and history lives on in us. Send us from this place with purpose and in your power, blessed, transformed and bent toward the arc of justice for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**

'We Are Walking'

No. 442

***BENEDICTION¹**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Amen'

(Youth Choir)

POSTLUDE

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Anton Faynberg, Organist/Pianist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹Lindsay, Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. "Epiphany 5A - February 5." *United Church of Christ*, 26 Jan. 2023, <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/epiphany-5a-february-5/>

Come, Christians, Join to Sing 90

1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 2. Come lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ we bring: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Let prais-es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 Life shall not end the strait: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - jice;
 Christ is our Guide and Friend on whom we can de - pend;
 On heav-en's bliss-ful shore his good-ness we'll a - dore,

praise we with grate-ful choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
 sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

WORDS: Christian Henry Bateman, 1843, alt.
 MUSIC: Traditional Spanish melody; harm. David Evans, 1927

MADRID
 66.66D

♩=112-120

1. Man - y are the light-beams from the one light.
 2. Man - y are the bran - ches of the one tree.
 3. Man - y are the gifts giv'n, love is all one.
 4. Man - y ways to serve God, the Spir - it is one;
 5. Man - y are the mem - bers, the bod - y is one;

1. Our one light is Je - sus. Man - y are the
 2. Our one tree is Je - sus. Man - y are the
 3. Love's the gift of Je - sus. Man - y are the
 4. ser - vant spir - it of Je - sus. Man - y ways to
 5. mem - bers all of Je - sus. Man - y are the

1. light - beams from the one light; we are one in Christ.
 2. bran - ches of the one tree; we are one in Christ.
 3. gifts giv'n, love is all one; we are one in Christ.
 4. serve God, the Spir - it is one; we are one in Christ.
 5. mem - bers, the bod - y is one; we are one in Christ.

WORDS: *De unitate ecclesiae*, Cyprian of Carthage, 252;
 tr. Anders Frostenson, 1972, 1986
 MUSIC: Olle Widstrand, 1974; harm. A. Eugene Ellsworth, 1994

MANY ARE THE LIGHTBEAMS
 10 6.10 5

♩=104-112

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Sweet, Sweet Spirit

There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord,

Refrain
Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

WORDS and MUSIC: Doris Akers, 1962

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT
lrr. w. refrain

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with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings

we lift our hearts in praise; with - out a - doubt we'll know

that we have been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

I Thank You, Jesus

1. I thank you, Je-sus, thank you, Je-sus,
 2. You've been my fa-ther, been my moth-er,

(Thank you, Je-sus,) (thank you, Je-sus,)
 (Been my fa-ther,) (been my moth-er,)

thank you, Je-sus, my Sav-ior God, for you brought me, yes, you
 been my sis-ter, my bro-th-er, too, for you brought me, yes, you

brought me from a might-y, a might-y long way, (a might-y long
 brought me from a might-y, a might-y long way, (a might-y long

I thank you, Je-sus, thank you, Je-sus,
 You've been my fa-ther, been my moth-er,

way.) (Thank you, Je-sus,) (thank you, Je-sus,)
 way.) (Been my fa-ther,) (been my moth-er,)

WORDS: Kenneth Morris, 1948
 MUSIC: Kenneth Morris, 1948; adapt. and arr. Joyce F. Johnson, 1992, alt.

I THANK YOU
 arr.

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 arr. © 1992 The Pilgrim Press

thank you, Je-sus, my Sav-ior God, for you brought me, yes, you
 been my sis-ter, my bro-th-er, too, for you brought me, yes, you

brought me from a might-y, a might-y long way. (a might-y long way.)
 brought me from a might-y, a might-y long way. (a might-y long way.)

We Are Walking
(Siyahamba/Caminando)

We are walk ing* in the light of God, we are
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya -
Ca - mi - nan - do en la luz de Dios, ca - mi -

walk - ing in the light of God. We are
hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos. Si - ya -
nan - do en la luz de Dios. Ca - mi -

of God we are
kwen - khos' si - ya
de Dios ca - mi

walk - ing in the light of the light of God. We are
hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya
nan - do en la luz de la luz de Dios. Ca - mi -

of God
kwen - khos'
de Dios

* marching/singing/dancing/praying

WORDS and MUSIC: South Africa (20th century)

SIYAHAMBA
tr.

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walk - ing We are
ham - ba Si - ya
nan - do Ca - mi

walk - ing, walk - ing, we are walk - ing, walk - ing, we are
ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -
nan - do va - mos, ca - mi - nan - do va - mos, ca - mi -

Oo

walk - ing in the light of God.
hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos.
nan - do en la luz de Dios.