



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



June 25, 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**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Matt Howard



## **THE LOVE OF CHRIST FOR EACH PERSON KNOWS NO BOUNDS, AND...**

We, at Christ Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Brockton, celebrate the diversity of God's creation and seek to be a community of Christians who live in openness to the voice of the Still Speaking God.

We celebrate family in all its diverse forms and honor, support, and bless all loving and committed relationships.

As we seek to live our our mission to live Christ's compassion and promote justice, healing, and wholeness of life, we welcome into our community persons of every gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, age, race, nationality, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing and family structure.

We invite and welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.

We remember our promises made at baptism, therefore no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome to this United Church of Christ.

## CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

God said, "I will be your God."

**God has promised. God remembers. God is faithful.**

God said, "I will lead you in the paths of truth."

**God has promised. God remembers. God is faithful.**

God said, "I will forgive you."

**God has promised. God remembers. God is faithful.**

God said, "My kingdom is near."

**God has promised. God remembers. God is faithful.**



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



## \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

'Ours the Journey'

No. 458



## PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE<sup>3</sup>

Leader: Jesus said - Everyone is welcome into my kin-dom, especially those on the margins.

**ALL: We say - Everyone is welcome into the kingdom, except those on the margins.**

Leader: Jesus said - Everyone is equal in the eyes of God.

**ALL: We say - We have made a nice hierarchical church where men hold most of the power.**

Leader: Jesus said - Everyone is made in the image of God.

**ALL: We say - God is male, white, Western, and definitely heterosexual.**

Leader: Jesus said - Nothing is impossible to God.

**ALL: We say - We would rather stick to the things we know are possible.**

Leader: Jesus said - Love your neighbor as yourself.

**ALL: We say - I'll love my neighbor as long as they are the same as me.**

Leader: Jesus said - Sell all you have and follow me.

**ALL: We say - I would rather leave Jesus and his challenging statements at the Church's door.**

Leader: Jesus said - Feed the hungry.

**ALL: We say - I think that means feed myself first.**

Leader: Jesus said - I have come to turn the world and its values upside down.

**ALL: We say - We have turned the world back up the right way.**

## WORDS OF GRACE<sup>4</sup>

**ALL: I am a loveable, creative person made in the likeness of God. I give myself permission to enjoy being myself, to love without fear of rejection, to create with imagination, to change without dread of the future, to use my power responsibly, to work for justice and peace, and to live as a singer and dancer within God's all embracing Being. Amen.**



## \*HYMN

'Gather Us In'

No. 284

**SCRIPTURE****Genesis 9:1-17**

God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fertile, multiply, and fill the earth. <sup>2</sup> All of the animals on the earth will fear you and dread you—all the birds in the skies, everything crawling on the ground, and all of the sea's fish. They are in your power. <sup>3</sup> Everything that lives and moves will be your food. Just as I gave you the green grasses, I now give you everything. <sup>4</sup> However, you must not eat meat with its life, its blood, in it.

<sup>5</sup> I will surely demand your blood for a human life,  
from every living thing I will demand it.

From humans, from a man for his brother,  
I will demand something for a human life.

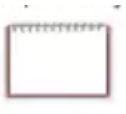
<sup>6</sup> Whoever sheds human blood,  
by a human his blood will be shed;

for in the divine image

God made human beings.

<sup>7</sup> As for you, be fertile and multiply. Populate the earth and multiply in it." <sup>8</sup> God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> "I am now setting up my covenant with you, with your descendants, <sup>10</sup> and with every living being with you—with the birds, with the large animals, and with all the animals of the earth, leaving the ark with you. <sup>11</sup> I will set up my covenant with you so that never again will all life be cut off by floodwaters. There will never again be a flood to destroy the earth."

<sup>12</sup> God said, "This is the symbol of the covenant that I am drawing up between me and you and every living thing with you, on behalf of every future generation. <sup>13</sup> I have placed my bow in the clouds; it will be the symbol of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember the covenant between me and you and every living being among all the creatures. Floodwaters will never again destroy all creatures. <sup>16</sup> The bow will be in the clouds, and upon seeing it I will remember the enduring covenant between God and every living being of all the earth's creatures." <sup>17</sup> God said to Noah, "This is the symbol of the covenant that I have set up between me and all creatures on earth."

**SERMON**

Rev. Katrina Clinton

**IMPROVISED MUSIC FOR REFLECTION**

Anton Faynberg

*During this time, we invite you to embrace the transition from hearing the word to gathering ourselves in prayer by taking a moment for quiet reflection either in your pew, or by coming forward to light a candle to give light to the prayer(s) on your heart that have no words to be expressed.*

**Come and Light a Candle...**



## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley

\*Today we celebrate the sacrament of baptism for Judah Lee Kardisco to affirm our belief that he is a beloved child of God. His parents, Pastor Jeff and Dani, are here to promise to raise him in the life of faith. They are joined in making that promise by Judah's big brother, Ivyn William Kardisco\*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

'Run Into My Arms'

Gillian Austin



## PASTORAL PRAYER<sup>5</sup>

*\*We will continue to share prayer concerns among the congregation by lifting up the name of a person, or naming a situation, at which point Pastor Jeff will repeat the concern raised. Once Pastor Jeff has repeated the concern the entire congregation will respond with "God in your mercy, hear our prayer". Once we have concluded sharing our prayer concerns Pastor Jeff will begin today's pastoral prayer, followed by the prayer of Jesus.\**

Leader: O God our Creator, your love is our home and our refuge, a sure defense against the storm, a strong tower where we can take shelter from the overwhelming wave of pain and hunger, stress and toil.

**ALL: We adore you.**

Leader: O God our Savior, your love is our guardian and our guide; a staff on which we can lean in times of anxiety and over-work, a support when we are burdened by the weight of others' need.

**ALL: We honor you.**

Leader: O God our Life, your love is the energy which takes us into each new day, the faith which gives us courage to love, the joy which renews us in hope.

**ALL: We adore you.**

Leader: O God our Creator, Savior, Life - your love is the refuge which holds us, the fire which warms us, the light we keep for the sake of travelers in a wild land. You are steadfast as rock beneath our feet, and your word is the secure foundation of our service and our prayer. In you, we may be assailed, but we need never be undermined.

**ALL: We give you thanks and praise.**



## THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(in unison)*

**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 Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

'The Rainbow Connection'

Doug Anderson

**MOMENT FOR PLANNED GIVING**

**CALL FOR OFFERINGS**



**OFFERTORY**

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

'Take My Gifts'

No. 381



**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION<sup>6</sup>**



**\*HYMN**

'Many Are the Lightbeams'

No. 492

**BENEDICTION**



**POSTLUDE**

Anton Faynberg

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

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Rev. Katrina Clinton, Guest Pastor

Rev. Ann-Marie Illsley, Guest Pastor

Anton Faynberg, Organist/Pianist

Doug Anderson, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

<sup>1</sup>Scifres, Mary J, and BJ Beu. "Worship Elements: February 21, 2021." *Worship Elements: February 21, 2021*, 7 Jan. 2021, [www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2358/worship-elements-february-21-2021](http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2358/worship-elements-february-21-2021).

<sup>2</sup>Duncan, Geoffrey, and W.L. Wallace. "God Who Meets Us." *Courage to Love: Liturgies for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community*, The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, 2002, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup>B, Suzi. "Jesus Said." *Courage to Love: Liturgies for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community*, The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, OH, 2002, pp. 92–93.

<sup>4</sup>Wallace, W.L. "I Am A Loveable, Creative Person." *Courage to Love: Liturgies for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community*, The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, 2002, pp. 4–4.

<sup>5</sup>Duncan, Geoffrey, and Jay Hulme. *Courage to Love: Liturgies for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community*, Pilgrim Press, 2002, pp. 97–97.

<sup>6</sup>Duncan, Geoffrey, and John Simmonds. "Living in the Spirit: A Eucharist." *Courage to Love: Liturgies for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community*, The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, 2002, p. 271.



## MUSICA DIVINA ~ BY ANTON FAYNBERG

Come Join Anton on Wednesday, June 28th & 12:00PM

A couple times a month Anton Faynberg will fill our sanctuary with sacred sound and music to help bring God's word to life. Deriving the name from the practice *Lectio Divina* (or divine reading) - where practitioners read, or listen to, scripture in different voices and different tempos - Anton has created an experience that is an hour of continuous sound and music accompanied by scripture readings, meant to bring God's word to life.

## Unison

1. In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,  
 2. Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ples, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,  
 3. Though we reach the high-est heav-ens, hold-ing worlds at our com-mand,  
 4. Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-der-ing their sep-rate ways?  
 who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?  
 we are yet a des-ert peo-ple search-ing for the prom-ised land.  
 may your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

## Refrain

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar,

we your peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er-more.

WORDS and MUSIC: Julian B. Rush, 1979

OURS THE JOURNEY  
87.87 w. refrain

## Gather Us In

Unison D A C G Gm/B<sup>b</sup> Dm

1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, sha-dows of doubt are  
 2. We are the young—our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who  
 3. Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the  
 4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

C G D A C G

van-ish-ed a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and yourdaugh-ters,  
 light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

Gm/B<sup>b</sup> Dm C Am7 D

brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1981

GATHER US IN  
Irr.

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♩ = 54-60

A C/G D/F<sup>+</sup> G A C/G

Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in; our  
 Gath-er us in— the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in— the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pass-ion, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and

D/F<sup>+</sup> G A D A C G

spir-its in-flame. Call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,

Gm/B<sup>b</sup> Dm C Am7 D C/D Gm/D D

we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

# Open My Eyes, That I May See 586



1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou  
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou  
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth



hast for me; place in my hands the won-der-ful key  
 send - est clear; and while the wave - notes fall on my ear,  
 ev - ery-where; o - pen my heart and let me pre-pare



that shall un-clasp and set me free.  
 ev - ery-thing false will dis - ap-pear. Si - lent - ly now I  
 love with thy chil - dren thus to share.



wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy will to see.



O - pen my eyes,  
 O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
 O - pen my heart,



1. Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of  
 2. Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your  
 3. Take what-ever I can offer— gifts that I have

all loved me, gave me light and food and shel - ter,  
 Spir - it sowed, har - vest of your own com - pas - sion,  
 yet to find, skills that I am slow to sharp - en,

gave me life and set me free, now be - cause your  
 juice that makes the wine of God, spiced with hu - mor,  
 tal - ents of the hand and mind, things made beau - ti -

love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,  
 laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,  
 ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray, 1988  
 MUSIC: Colin Gibson, 1988

TALavera TERRACE  
 87.87D

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$\text{♩} = 112-120$

now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to  
 tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be  
 take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of

mul - ti - ply!  
 yond be - lief.

1/2 3

all loved me.

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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