



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



July 23, 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



## \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

'All Creatures of Our God and King'

No. 22

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

Leader: As we harvest our growing abundance in this time of mid-summer, may we relish in the fruit of our labor,

**People: As we harvest the fruitful seeds of nature and God's Garden, let us share in the bounty with our neighbors.**

Leader: While we channel resources - water, light, fertile ground to the produce we desire in our gardens,

**People: May we also recognize that the weed, the rabbit, the caterpillar also has needs for sustenance.**

Leader: We have enough, and an attitude of plentifulness increases through sharing.

**People: For what our land grows with our tending, is only ours for a moment in time, filling a short term and immediate need. May we share the harvest by tithing back to nature, feeding the hungry among us, storing for the future without hoarding, and setting enough seed aside for the next season of planting.**



## OPENING PRAYER<sup>1</sup>



## PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE<sup>1</sup>

**ALL: God of creation and plenty, it can be easy for us to forget the abundant nature of your love. We forget that there are ample riches from this earth if we manage your resources you and we share generously among all your beloved children. We forget that we are all created in your divine beauty, perfect specimens of your holy vision for a people who can love without bounds, share without tallying, and celebrate among the great diversity you created to thrive together. Guide us to give of that abundance, to receive with grace and gratitude, and to turn our hearts from the perception of scarcity. We confess that we fall short; and we ask that you show us the path again to your fruitful garden where all things grow and flourish. Amen.**

## WORDS OF GRACE<sup>1</sup>

### A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco



### HYMN OF PREPARATION

'Help Us Accept Each Other'

No. 487

## SCRIPTURE

### Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

<sup>24</sup> Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like someone who planted good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> While people were sleeping, an enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the stalks sprouted and bore grain, then the weeds also appeared.

<sup>27</sup> "The servants of the landowner came and said to him, 'Master, didn't you plant good seed in your field? Then how is it that it has weeds?'

<sup>28</sup> "'An enemy has done this,' he answered.

"The servants said to him, 'Do you want us to go and gather them?'

<sup>29</sup> "But the landowner said, 'No, because if you gather the weeds, you'll pull up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow side by side until the harvest. And at harvesttime I'll say to the harvesters, "First gather the weeds and tie them together in bundles to be burned. But bring the wheat into my barn.'"

<sup>36</sup> Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

<sup>37</sup> Jesus replied, "The one who plants the good seed is the Human One. <sup>38</sup> The field is the world. And the good seeds are the followers of the kingdom. But the weeds are the followers of the evil one. <sup>39</sup> The enemy who planted them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the present age. The harvesters are the angels. <sup>40</sup> Just as people gather weeds and burn them in the fire, so it will be at the end of the present age. <sup>41</sup> The Human One will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that cause people to fall away and all people who sin. <sup>42</sup> He will throw them into a burning furnace. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth. <sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's kingdom. Those who have ears should hear."



## SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

## 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...



## PASTORAL PRAYER

*\*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.\**



## 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.**



## \*SPECIAL MUSIC

'Solo Le Pido A Dios'

Emily Swisher-Rosa

## CALL FOR OFFERINGS<sup>1</sup>



## OFFERTORY

Musical Offerings by Emily Swisher-Rosa

## \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

'For the Beauty of the Earth'

No. 56



**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION<sup>1</sup>**

Leader: We dedicate these resources to doing God’s work among God’s people.

**All: May these gifts plant seeds of justice for God’s children who seek it; may they remind us to love more mercifully; may all walk humbly as we learn to trod gently upon this earth. Amen.**



**\*HYMN**

‘O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing’

No. 5

**BENEDICTION**



**POSTLUDE**

Anton Faynberg

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

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Anton Faynberg, Organist/Pianist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

<sup>1</sup>Warren, Dr. Sherry. “After Pentecost 8A - July 23.” *United Church of Christ*, 8 June 2023, [www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-8a-july-23/](http://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-8a-july-23/).

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**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**Vacation Bible School**

**Monday, August 14- Thursday, August 17**

**Ages 4-12**

**5:30-7:30pm**

**Registration starting in July via the Nearly Weekly or after church in the Narthex.**





# LAST

**MUSICA DIVINA ~ BY ANTON FAYNBERG**

**Come Join Anton on  
Wednesday, July 26th @ 12:00pm**

Every week this 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.

# All Creatures of Our God and King 22

*Unison*

1. All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us  
 2. O rush-ing wind with voice so strong, you clouds that sail in heav'n a-  
 3. O flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, make mu-sic for your God to  
 4. And all for-giv-en ten-der hearts, for-giv-ing oth-ers, take your

*Harmony* *Unison*

sing; Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! O burn-ing sun with gold-en  
 long, O praise God, Al-le-lu-ia! O ris-ing morn, in praise re-  
 hear, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! O blaz-ing fire who lights the  
 part, sing prais-es, Al-le-lu-ia! You who long pain and sor-row

*Refrain (Harmony)*

beam, O sil-ver moon with soft-er gleam,  
 joyce, you lights of eve-ning find a voice, O praise God,  
 night, pro-vid-ing warmth, en-hanc-ing sight,  
 bear, praise God, who knows your ev-'ry care.

*Unison*

O praise God, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia!

WORDS: Francis of Assisi, 1225; tr. William H. Draper, 1925, alt.  
 MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
 88.44.88 w. refrain

# Help Us Accept Each Other

487

*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

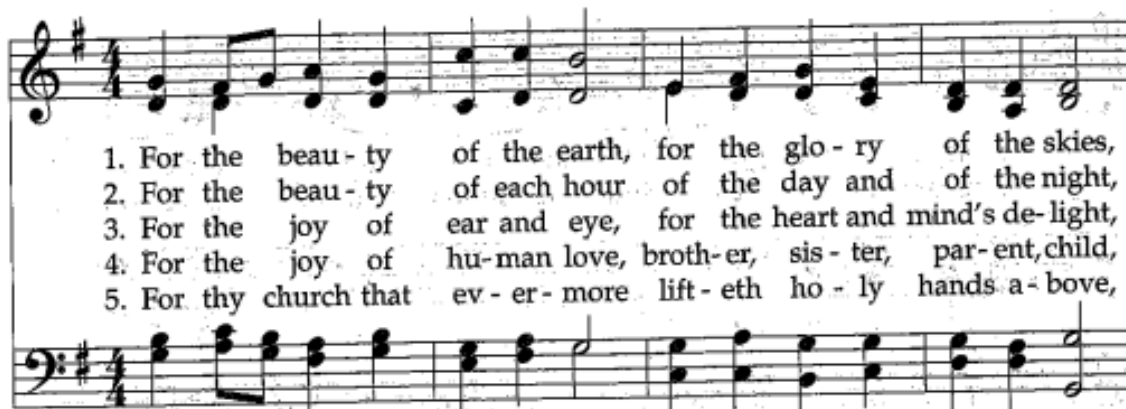
ACCEPTANCE  
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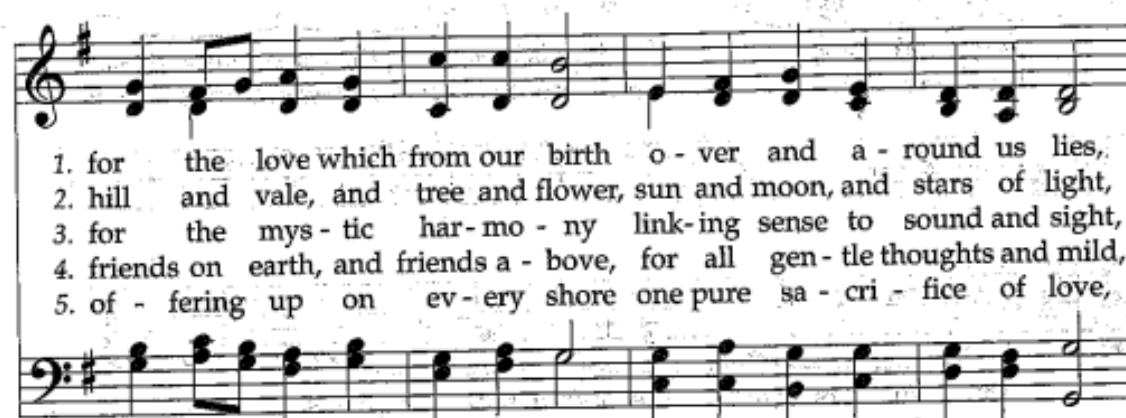
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# For the Beauty of the Earth

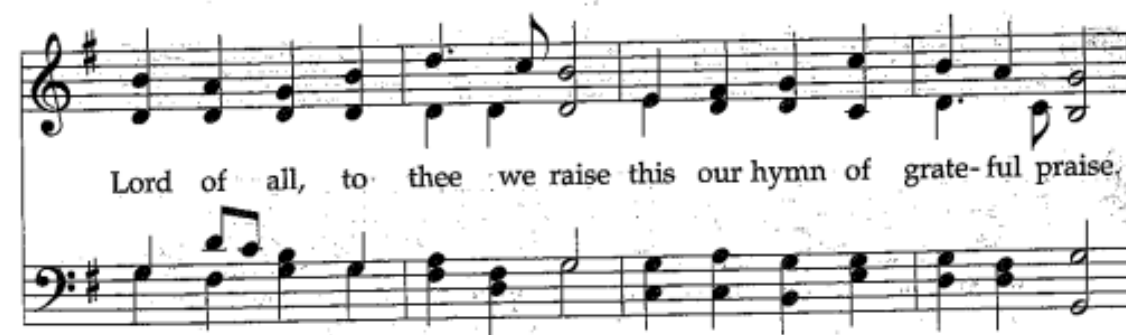
56



1. For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,  
2. For the beau-ty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,  
4. For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
5. For thy church that ev-er-more lift-eth ho-ly hands a-bove,



1. for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
2. hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
3. for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight,  
4. friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
5. of-fering up on ev-ery shore one pure sa-cri-fice of love,



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise,

WORDS: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864  
MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. William Henry Monk, 1861

DIX  
77.77.77

# O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

5

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease;  
3. My lov - ing Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,  
4. Glo - ry to God and praise and love be ev - er, ev - er given

the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!  
'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.  
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.  
by saints be - low and saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.  
MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

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