



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



SUMMER WORSHIP

July 30, 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

Chris Madden



*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

'God of Grace and God of Glory'

No. 464

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: O Creator of the Cosmos, who knows what the kin-dom of God is like, but also remembers what it was like before...

People: Before creation and kin-doms, before mustard seeds and fine pearls, before yeast and bakers to make bread.

Leader: So, you know what it is like to long for them, to imagine them into being,

People: And it is from this longing for your kin-dom and for you that we enter our worship.

Leader: Yes, come, let us praise and pray to our God of promise!

People: Let us rejoice in the Good News together - how nothing can separate us from the presence of God. Amen.



OPENING PRAYER¹



PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹

ALL: We call upon our ancestor, Solomon, who knew to ask God for the wisdom to discern between what is in the spirit of God, and what is not. Like Solomon, we admit that we don't always know how to make our way through life—in its nuances, violence, chaos, and unexpected burdens. We also admit that in our struggles, we've made the wrong choice, hurt others, and clung to our shame. Forgive us, O God of Wisdom, and teach us your ways of repair. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE¹

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco



HYMN OF PREPARATION

'We Call Ourselves Disciples'

No. 357

SCRIPTURE *(From the New International Version)*

Romans 8:26-39

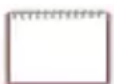
²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



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

'You Raise Me Up'

Doug Anderson & Mikhaela Houston

CALL FOR OFFERINGS¹



OFFERTORY

Anton Faynberg

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

'For the Beauty of the Earth' (verse 2)

No. 56



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹



***HYMN**

'We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection'

Doug Anderson

We shall go out with hope of resurrection,
 We shall go out, from strength to strength go on,
 We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,
 Tales of a love that will not let us go.
 We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted,
 We'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed,
 We'll weave a cloth of all the world united
 Within the vision of new life who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken,
 We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed,
 We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
 Expressive love alive in every heart.
 We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
 Raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
 We'll leap and dance the resurrection story
 Including all in the circles of our love.

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

¹Berry, Rev. Dr. Elyse. "After Pentecost 9A - July 30." *United Church of Christ*, 27 June 2023, www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-9a-july-30/.



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.

God of Grace and God of Glory 464

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; fill our lives that
 5. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

1. pour thy power; crown thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 2. sail thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us,
 3. thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 4. we may be strength - ened with all Christ - like gra - ces
 5. we de - plore; let the search for thy sal - va - tion

1. bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 2. free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 3. rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 4. pledged to set all cap - tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 5. be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

1. for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 2. for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 3. lest we miss thy righ - teous goal, lest we miss thy righ - teous goal.
 4. lest we fail our call from thee, lest we fail our call from thee.
 5. serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

WORDS: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 87.87.877

Alt. tune: REGENT SQUARE

1. We call our-selves dis - ci - ples, as pil-grims on the way.
2. The cup and cross be-fore us, pro-claim our hope a - bove,
3. We're bap-tized in the Spir - it, in wa-ters God pro-vides.
4. We join with all dis - ci - ples to live the Word in deed,
5. So now the vi - sion bright - ens, the light of Christ burns still

1. We seek the truth in wis - dom, and beau - ty in each day.
2. the sign of our Re - deem - er, the ves - sel of his love.
3. In Christ we rise to new - ness, for in him, we have died.
4. to share the cup of wa - ter and bread with all in need;
5. in hearts of all dis - ci - ples to be the church God wills.

1. As wom - en, men, and chil - dren, we serve, Christ's path to clear.
2. Once more the cross is lift - ed, the cup poured out for all.
3. Now dead to powers of e - vil, and free from hope - less fears,
4. to work till God's com - pass - ion and righ - teous - ness pre - vail,
5. From quiet med - i - ta - tion, and joy - ous hymns of praise,

1. In joy - ful ex - pec - ta - tion we see God's reign draw near.
2. When gath - ered at the ta - ble we hear our com - mon call.
3. we live with faith and pur - pose, cre - a - tive through the years.
4. till all this plan - et's peo - ple know jus - tice, with - out fail.
5. we go to do God's mis - sion! Christ, lead us all our days!

WORDS: Jim Miller, 1984
MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1836

LANCASHIRE
76.76D

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