



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



August 6, 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

Moriah Park



***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

'Morning Has Broken'

No. 53

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jacob was alone and at the end of his rope, fearful that his life might soon be over.

People: And in the course of that darkest night, as all seemed hopeless, Jacob wrestled.

Leader: Jacob wrestled with God in his darkest hour and was forever marked for it - with the blessing of a new name, and a limp to prove the struggle.

People: Let us approach God, as Jacob did, in our worship,

Leader: Embracing the struggle, unafraid to wrestle, willing to be forever changed, seeking blessings.

People: God bless our worship and our lives together today!



OPENING PRAYER¹



PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE²

ALL: Merciful God, the story of Jacob shows your willingness to enter into the messiness of our human struggles - into fractured relationships, family differences, un-reconciled situations with people we care about.

Yet we confess that too often we hold on because we do not want to loosen our grip on our possessions and our selfish desires. Often we fear that our very lives will be dislocated by your kin-dom values of justice, mercy, and peace.

Help us to wrestle with the conflicting values, desires, and pressures that confront us daily so that we can unclench our hands and open ourselves to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Only then can we fully embrace others in their pain - and be fully embraced in return. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco



HYMN OF PREPARATION

'Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise'

No. 66

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 32:22-31

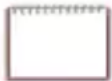
²² Jacob got up during the night, took his two wives, his two women servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed the Jabbok River's shallow water. ²³ He took them and everything that belonged to him, and he helped them cross the river. ²⁴ But Jacob stayed apart by himself, and a man wrestled with him until dawn broke. ²⁵ When the man saw that he couldn't defeat Jacob, he grabbed Jacob's thigh and tore a muscle in Jacob's thigh as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ The man said, "Let me go because the dawn is breaking."

But Jacob said, "I won't let you go until you bless me."

²⁷ He said to Jacob, "What's your name?" and he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then he said, "Your name won't be Jacob any longer, but Israel, because you struggled with God and with men and won."

²⁹ Jacob also asked and said, "Tell me your name."

But he said, "Why do you ask for my name?" and he blessed Jacob there. ³⁰ Jacob named the place Peniel, "because I've seen God face-to-face, and my life has been saved." ³¹ The sun rose as Jacob passed Peniel, limping because of his thigh.



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...



SERVICE OF FAREWELL FOR ANTON FAYNBERG

GREETING

REMEMBRANCE

VOWS OF RELEASE

Leader: Do you, the members and friends of Christ Congregational Church, release Anton Faynberg from the duties of being your music director?

ALL: We do, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you offer your encouragement for his ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

ALL: We do, with the help of God.



PRAYER OF RELEASING



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.



HYMN

'There Is a Balm in Gilead'

No. 501

CALL FOR OFFERINGS



OFFERTORY

Anton Faynberg

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

'For the Beauty of the Earth' (verse 3)

No. 56



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION



SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

REMEMBERING THE STORY & PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

BREAKING THE BREAD & POURING THE CUP

SHARING THE ELEMENTS *(In The Pews)*

The body of Christ, given for you. Take, eat, and remember him.

The cup of blessing, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Take, drink, and remember him.



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(in unison)*

We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table. Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another. As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. Amen.



*HYMN

'God Be with You Till We Meet Again'

No. 434

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

¹Unknown, Author. "Call to Worship: Genesis 32." *Call to Worship: Genesis 32*, re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/call-to-worship-genesis-32.html. Accessed 31 July 2023.

²Author, Unknown. "Prayer of Confession: Genesis 32:22-31." *Prayer of Confession: Genesis 32:22-31*, re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/prayer-of-confession-genesis-3222-31.html. Accessed 31 July 2023.

Morning Has Broken

C Am Dm G Dm G C

1. Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing, black-bird has
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing born of the

Em Am Em F G C Am F C

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery

Am G C G Am Dm G7 C

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

BUNESSAN
 55.54D

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 arr. © 1987 CRC Publications

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 66

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 all prais - es we ren - der: O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 that on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.
 MUSIC: Welsh folk melody

ST. DENIO
 11 11.11 11

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole,

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

Unison

1. Some - times I feel dis-cour-aged and think my work's in vain, but
2. If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul, you can
3. Don't ev - er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend; and

D.C.

then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain.
 tell the love of Je-sus, and say, "He died for all!"
 if you lack for knowl-edge He'll ne'er re-fuse to lend.

WORDS: African-American spiritual
 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. Harold Moyer

BALM IN GILEAD
 trr.

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

God Be with You Till We Meet Again 434

1-4. God be with you till we meet a - gain;

lov - ing coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's
un - seen wings, pro - tect - ing, hide you, dai - ly man - na
when life's per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing
keep love's ban - ner float - ing o'er you, smite death's threat - ening

care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
still pro - vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
wave be - fore you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Refrain
Till we meet till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet, till we meet;

till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
till we meet, till we meet,

WORDS: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880, alt.
MUSIC: William G. Tomer, 1880

GOD BE WITH YOU
98.89 w. refrain