



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



August 20, 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**

'O for a World'

No. 683

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

Leader: O God Embodied, the one made flesh who dwelt among us, help us to arrive this morning with a "yes." A "yes" to our faith that says our bodies are good and holy, just as and however they are.

**ALL: A "yes" to show up here, even if our minds may be in other places at times.**

Leader: A "yes" to believing enough in you, this community, and our own call to know this is where we need to be in this moment.

**ALL: A "yes" to bringing all that comes from and through our hearts to you, O Heart-Maker.**

Leader: Come, let us bring ourselves to God's table of plenty,

**ALL: With our inherent worth and dignity to guide us. Amen.**



**OPENING PRAYER<sup>1</sup>**



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

**ALL:** Today, our scripture passage shows us the power of repentance. It shows how profound it is to see this embodied in Christ, who changed his perspective, and changed his actions, when the mother persisted in advocating for her child and for their dignity. May we have the courage to admit when we've been wrong, the courage to ask for forgiveness, and the open heart to change our ways. Amen.

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

### A TIME FOR ALL AGES



## HYMN OF PREPARATION

'Help Us Accept Each Other'

No. 487

## SCRIPTURE

### Matthew 15:10-28

<sup>10</sup> Jesus called the crowd near and said to them, "Listen and understand. <sup>11</sup> It's not what goes into the mouth that contaminates a person in God's sight. It's what comes out of the mouth that contaminates the person."

<sup>12</sup> Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended by what you just said?"

<sup>13</sup> Jesus replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father didn't plant will be pulled up. <sup>14</sup> Leave the Pharisees alone. They are blind people who are guides to blind people. But if a blind person leads another blind person, they will both fall into a ditch."

<sup>15</sup> Then Peter spoke up, "Explain this riddle to us."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said, "Don't you understand yet? <sup>17</sup> Don't you know that everything that goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup> But what goes out of the mouth comes from the heart. And that's what contaminates a person in God's sight. <sup>19</sup> Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adultery, sexual sins, thefts, false testimonies, and insults. <sup>20</sup> These contaminate a person in God's sight. But eating without washing hands doesn't contaminate in God's sight."

<sup>21</sup> From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, "Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession." <sup>23</sup> But he didn't respond to her at all.

His disciples came and urged him, "Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us."

<sup>24</sup> Jesus replied, "I've been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel."

<sup>25</sup> But she knelt before him and said, "Lord, help me."

<sup>26</sup> He replied, "It is not good to take the children's bread and toss it to dogs."

<sup>27</sup> She said, "Yes, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters' table."

<sup>28</sup> Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish." And right then her daughter was healed.



## SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

## MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Steve Young

*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.**



## HYMN

'This Is a Day of New Beginnings'

No. 518

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



## OFFERTORY

'Andante Pastoral et Scherzettino'

arr. Taffane

*played by Serenity Young-Ferguson*

## \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

'For the Beauty of the Earth' (verse 5)

No. 56



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



**\*HYMN**

**'Great Is Thy Faithfulness'**

**No. 86**

**BENEDICTION**



**POSTLUDE**

**'Glory, Glory, Hallelujah'**

**African-American spiritual**

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

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Steve Young, Guest Organist/Accompanist

Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

<sup>1</sup>Berry, Rev. Dr. Elyse. "After Pentecost 12a - August 20." *United Church of Christ*, 27 July 2023, [www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-12a-august-20/](http://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-12a-august-20/).

1. O for a world where ev - ery - one re -  
 2. O for a world where goods are shared and  
 3. We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and  
 4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the  
 5. O for a world pre - par - ing for God's

1. spect each oth - er's ways, where love is lived and  
 2. mis - er - y re - lieved, where truth is spo - ken,  
 3. strug - gle with each choice that o - pens us to  
 4. fool - ish ones are wise. Tell all who mourn; out -  
 5. glo - rious reign of peace, where time and tears will

1. all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
 2. chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
 3. u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
 4. casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
 5. be no more, and all but love will cease.

WORDS: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987  
 MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON  
 CM

# 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  
 76.76D

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♩=64-72

# This Is a Day of New Beginnings 518

*Unison*

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,  
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,  
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,  
 4. In faith we gath - er round the ta - ble

time to re - mem - ber and move on,  
 God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,  
 step from the past and leave be - hind  
 to taste and share what love can do.

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,  
 can make for us a world of dif - ference,  
 our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,  
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings,

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1978, rev. 1987  
 MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1984

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BEGINNINGS

98.98

♩ = 50-54

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

DIX  
 77.77.77

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

86

1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, there is no shad-ow of  
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon and stars in their  
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thy own dear pres-ence to

turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-pas-sions, they fail not;  
 cours-es a - bove, join with all na-ture in man - i - fold wit-ness  
 cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor-row,

*Refrain*

as thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be. Great is thy faith-ful-ness!  
 to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love.  
 bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have

need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed—Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923  
 MUSIC: William M. Runyan, 1923

FAITHFULNESS  
 11 10.11 10 w. refrain