



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



August 27, 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

Sylvia Berry

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moriah Park



***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty'

No. 25

CALL TO WORSHIP¹ *(Inspired by Psalm 138)*

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

Many: We bow down in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

Many: We listen in anticipation for the Sovereign One remembers God's people



OPENING PRAYER¹



PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹

ALL: Renewing God, we confess that all too often we conform to this world. The voices we prioritize are far removed from you. We drown out your Still Speaking Voice with the noise of consumerism and commercialism. We ignore your gentle nudge in favor of our own desires and comfort. We fail to actively love our neighbor, care for your creation, or even honor ourselves as your divine crafting. We resist transformation through the renewing of our minds and settle for echo chambers of thoughts and ideas that deplete and deprive our souls of abundant life. Forgive us and continually challenge us to be the people you have empowered and equipped us to be. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE¹

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco



HYMN OF PREPARATION

'We Gather Together'

No. 276

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:1-8

12 So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. ² Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

³ Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. ⁴ We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function.

⁵ In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. ⁶ We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. ⁷ If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. ⁸ If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.



SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Sylvia Berry

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

'El Shaddai'

written by Michael Card & John Thompson,

sung by Lisa Sparling

*El Shaddai means "Lord God Almighty

*El Elyon na Adonai means "God in the highest

*Erkamka na Adonai means "We will love You, Oh Lord"

CALL FOR OFFERINGS¹



OFFERTORY

Sylvia Berry

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

'Blessed Assurance' (vs 1)

No. 543



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹



*HYMN

'I Have Decided to Follow Jesus' (SPIRITUAL)

No. 344

BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE

Sylvia Berry

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Sylvia Berry, Guest Organist/Accompanist

Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

¹Lindsay, Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. "After Pentecost 13a - August 27 - United Church of Christ." *Worship Ways: After Pentecost 13A - August 27*, United Church of Christ, www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-13a-august-27/. Accessed 24 Aug. 2023.

25 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Descant

5. Praise to the Lord! O let all of earth's peo - ples and

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, who rules all cre -
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de -
4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nour - ish thy life and re -
5. Praise to the Lord! O let all of earth's peo - ples and

rac - es, all that hath life and breath, give thanks for man - i - fold

1. a - tion. O my soul, wor - ship the well - spring of health and sal -
2. reign - eth, who, as on wings of an ea - gle up - lift - ed, sus -
3. fend thee. Sure - ly God's good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at -
4. store thee, fit - ting thee well for the tasks that are ev - er be -
5. rac - es, all that hath life and breath, give thanks for man - i - fold

WORDS: Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.;
 st. 4 tr. Rupert E. Davies, 1983
 MUSIC: *Erneueren Gesangbuch*, 1665; desc. Craig Sellar Lang, 1953

LOBE DEN HERREN
 14.14.478

Tr. st. 4 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; desc. reprinted by
 permission of Novello & Company, Inc.

We Gather Together

276

C Dm7 G C

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask for God's bless - ing,
 2. Be - side us to guide us, O God, we per - ceive you
 3. May all sing your prais - es, Re - deem - er tri - um - phant,

G C D G Am D7 G

to turn to a wis - dom sur - pass - ing our own;
 or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing the pow - er of life.
 de - fend us, be - friend us, what - ev - er may be.

G7 C Dm7 G7

the pow'rs that op - press us now cease to dis - tress us.
 Yes, yours be the glo - ry; let all tell the sto - ry.
 May your con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion.

F G C Dm7 G7 C

O God, be pres - ent with us, and make your will known.
 Our God, be ev - er with us, in glad - ness and strife.
 Your name be praised for - ev - er, O God, make us free!

WORDS: *Nederlandsche Gedenckclunck*, 1626; tr. Theodore Baker, 1894;
 adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981
 MUSIC: Dutch melody (16th century); arr. Edward Kremser, 1877

KREMSER
 Irr.

Adapt. © 1981 Ruth Duck; used by permission

1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! O what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-
 2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my
 3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and

vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his
 sight; an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of
 blest, watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his

Refrain

Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 mer - cy, whis - pers of love. This is my sto - ry, this is my
 good - ness, lost in his love.

song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long; this is my

sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873
 MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

ASSURANCE
 9 10.99 w. refrain

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

344

Unison

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -
 2. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be -
 3. Though none go with me, I still will fol - low, though none go
 4. Will you de - cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
 hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -
 with me, I still will fol - low, though none go with me, I still will
 cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de - cide now to fol - low

Je - sus— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fore me— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fol - low— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 Je - sus?— No turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.