



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



September 10, 2023

10:00 am

*\*AN ASTERISK IN THE BULLETIN INDICATES THAT ALL FOR WHOM IT IS COMFORTABLE SHOULD RISE FOR THAT PART OF THE SERVICE\**

*“Things could be worse. Suppose your errors were counted and published every day, like those of a baseball player.”*

*- Author unknown*

**FIRST INNING**

**RINGING OF THE CHIMES**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Moriah Park

**SONG**

“Take Me Out to God’s Game”

see insert

**SECOND INNING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In quietness and darkness, in peace and confusion, God calls us back home.

**All: God is the hope of the world.**

One: In God there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant.

**All: All are one in God.**

One: In God there is neither black nor white, neither north nor south.

**All: God is the hope of the world.**

One: In God there is neither male nor female, neither master nor servant.

**All: All are one in God.**

One: In God there is neither rich nor poor.

**All: God is the hope of the world.**

One: In God there is neither Red Sox nor Yankee.

**All: We are all one in God. Let us worship God together!**

## OPENING PRAYER

### THIRD INNING

#### PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

**ALL:** Compassionate God, we sometimes see our relationships with others as places for competition. We want to be the best, to be seen as winners, to be admired and praised by the world. Help us to see that your desires for our lives have a different focus, and enable us to strive for what matters to you – to seek peace, to love justice, and to bring hope and compassion wherever we can. Hear us now as we come before you in silence to share what is ours alone to confess.

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### FOURTH INNING

#### A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco

### FIFTH INNING

#### SCRIPTURE

##### Ephesians 4:20-32

<sup>20</sup> But you didn't learn that sort of thing from Christ. <sup>21</sup> Since you really listened to him and you were taught how the truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup> change the former way of life that was part of the person you once were, corrupted by deceitful desires. <sup>23</sup> Instead, renew the thinking in your mind by the Spirit <sup>24</sup> and clothe yourself with the new person created according to God's image in justice and true holiness.

<sup>25</sup> Therefore, after you have gotten rid of lying, *Each of you must tell the truth to your neighbor* because we are parts of each other in the same body. <sup>26</sup> *Be angry without sinning.* Don't let the sun set on your anger. <sup>27</sup> Don't provide an opportunity for the devil. <sup>28</sup> Thieves should no longer steal. Instead, they should go to work, using their hands to do good so that they will have something to share with whoever is in need.

<sup>29</sup> Don't let any foul words come out of your mouth. Only say what is helpful when it is needed for building up the community so that it benefits those who hear what you say. <sup>30</sup> Don't make the Holy Spirit of God unhappy—you were sealed by him for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Put aside all bitterness, losing your temper, anger, shouting, and slander, along with every other evil. <sup>32</sup> Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.

#### SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

### SIXTH INNING

#### THE WAVE

"Baseball fans do the Wave to rally the team. Let's do the Wave now as an offering of praise to God."

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:** Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

## SEVENTH INNING

...and God rested on the seventh day....Genesis 2:2

### SONG

“Sweet Caroline”

see insert

*\*A note for our guests: during “Sweet Caroline” beach balls will be bounced around the congregation from person to person. You are more than welcome to join in the fun, but if the experience would otherwise be too overwhelming please feel free to use our quiet room at the back of the sanctuary, or to take a few minutes in our narthex, until we are finished.*

## EIGHTH INNING

### OFFERING INVITATION

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

“You'll Never Walk Alone”

Rodgers and Hammerstein

### DOXOLOGY

Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God whose breath fills all the earth,  
whose love reveals our sacred worth,  
whose Spirit forms one family,  
whose grace brings peace and harmony. Amen.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(in unison)*

**God whose giving knows no ending, All that we have and all that we are comes from you, so we gladly return our gifts to you that others too may be blessed for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## NINTH INNING

### SUNG RESPONSE

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

No. 434

### BENEDICTION

## POST-GAME WRAP UP

### POSTLUDE

“This Little Light of Mine”

African-American traditional

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

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Alex Green, Guest Organist/Accompanist

Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

## **Take Me Out to God's Game**

*Tune: "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"*

Tune by Albert Von Tilzer, Lyrics by Chris Laughead & Joyce Gindra

Take me out to God's Game,  
Let me be on God's team.  
Find me some purpose, a path to tread,  
I know my Bible, I'll always get fed.  
And it's root, root, root for the sermons,  
the preaching is always the best!  
And it's serve, pray, always have faith,  
When you're on God's team.

Take me to UCC Stoughton,  
where I can sing and pray.  
I'll bring my Cheesy Chicken Bake  
to feed all my friends at MainSpring House!  
So it's root, root, root for God's home team,  
Believers, all tried and true  
Not one, two or three days a year,  
But our whole lives through.

Take me out to God's game,  
Where the people all sing.  
Hallelujah and praise the Lord,  
We know all the songs so we never get bored.  
And it's root, root, root for the home church,  
Where caring people abound.  
When the worship is over our service begins,  
Christians all around!

## **Sweet Caroline**

*Words, music Neil Diamond*

Where it began, I can't begin to knowin'  
But then I know it's growing strong  
Was in the spring And spring became the summer  
Who'd have believed you'd come along.

Hands, touchin' hands  
Reachin' out, touchin' me, touchin' you

Sweet Caroline  
Good times never seemed so good  
I've been inclined  
To believe they never would  
But now I...  
...look at the night  
And it don't seem so lonely  
We fill it up with only two.

And when I hurt,  
Hurtin' runs off my shoulders  
How can I hurt when holding you?  
Warm, touchin' warm  
Reachin' out, touchin' me, touchin' you

Sweet Caroline  
Good times never seemed so good  
I've been inclined,  
To believe they never would  
Oh, no, no Sweet Caroline  
Good times never seemed so good  
Sweet Caroline, I believe they never could  
Sweet Caroline, Good times never seemed so good  
Sweet Caroline...

# God Be with You Till We Meet Again 434

14. 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, 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