



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



September 17, 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

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moriah Park

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

‘Softly and Tenderly’

No. 340

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

One: Bless the Holy One with our whole selves. Praise the Maker of our being!

Many: Remember the mighty deeds and the good works of our God.

One: The Sovereign One endows us with many gifts and equips us to do good work.

Many: Remember the mighty deeds and the good works of our God.

One: Holy Love entered the world without condemnation but with grace and forgiveness, mercy and compassion, redemption and restoration.

Many: Hallelujah! We give thanks for the mighty deeds and the good works of our God!

OPENING PRAYER¹

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹

ALL: God of grace, we need your strength in our weakness. We confess that we can be judgemental and hyper-critical of our neighbors, family, and friends. We project our own shortcomings on others in order to deflect attention from our mistakes. We withhold and condition forgiveness, mercy, and grace from those who wrong us at the same time we seek it for the wrongs we have done. Even still, we struggle to forgive ourselves. You have shown us the better way. Help us to follow your path—receiving and extending forgiveness in a world in need of an infusion of grace for transformation. In your mercy, O God, hear our prayer, and let us forgive as you forgive. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE¹

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?”

²² Jesus said, “Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. ²³ Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. ²⁵ Because the servant didn’t have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. ²⁶ But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back.’ ²⁷ The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

²⁸ “When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, ‘Pay me back what you owe me.’

²⁹ “Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I’ll pay you back.’ ³⁰ But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

³¹ “When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. ³² His master called the first servant and said, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. ³³ Shouldn’t you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

³⁵ “My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don’t forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Alex Green

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

'Great is Thy Faithfulness'

No. 86



ORDINATION OF DEACONS

Today we welcome to the ministry of the diaconate, through the service of ordination, Ray and Sue Medeiros. All who are ordained are welcome to come forward first for the laying on of hands, followed by the rest of the congregation, when invited by Pastor Jeff

HYMN

'Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant'

No. 490

CALL FOR OFFERINGS¹

OFFERTORY

'Pelas dores deste mundo'

Rodolfo Neto and Jorge Lockwood

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

'We Give Thee but Thine Own (vs. 1 & 5)

No. 382

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹**

***HYMN**

'This Is a Day of New Beginnings'

No. 518

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

'Jesus Loves the Little Children'

George Root and Mark Hayes
Alex Green

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

¹Lindsay, Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. "After Pentecost 16A - September 17." *United Church of Christ*, 21 Aug. 2023,
www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-16a-september-17/.



TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS
are in loving memory of
Daniel E. Dunklee Jr. from his
wife Harriet and family

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,
 2. Why should we lin - ger when Je - sus is plead - ing,
 3. O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised,

call - ing for you and for me; pa - tient and lov - ing, he's
 plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we wait, then, and
 prom - ised for you and for me; tho' we have sinned he has

wait - ing and watch - ing, watch - ing for - you and for me.
 heed not his mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me?
 mer - cy and par - don, par - don for you and for me.

Refrain
 Come home, come home, come home, ye who are
 Come home, come home, come home,

WORDS and MUSIC: Will L. Thompson, 1880

THOMPSON
 11 7.11 7 w. refrain

wea - ry, come home; ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing - call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

709 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

1. Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken,
 2. See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters,
 3. Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering,

Zi - on, cit - y of our God; God, whose word can -
 spring - ing from e - ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy
 see the cloud and fire ap - pear for a glo - ry

not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.
 sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move.
 and a cov - ering, show - ing forth that God is near!

On the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy
 Who can faint, while such a riv - er ev - er flows their
 Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and

WORDS: John Newton, 1779, alt.
 MUSIC: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797

AUSTRIAN HYMN
 87.87D

sure - re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -
 thirst to as - suage? Grace, which like our God, the
 shade by day, safe they feed up - on the

round - ed, thou may - est smile at all thy foes.
 Giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.
 man - na which God gives them when they pray.

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

1. Sis - ter, let me be your ser - vant, bro - ther,
 2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, fel - low
 3. I will weep when you are weep - ing, when you
 4. When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall
 5. Broth - er, let me be your ser - vant, sis - ter,

1. let me walk with you; pray that I may
 2. trav - 'lers on the road. We are here to
 3. laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your
 4. find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've
 5. let me walk with you; pray that I may

1. have the grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
 2. help each oth - er, walk the mile and bear the load.
 3. joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney thro'.
 4. known to - geth - er of great love and ag - o - ny.
 5. have the grace to let you be my ser - vant too.

WORDS: Richard Gillard, 1977, alt.

MUSIC: Richard Gillard, 1977; arr. A. Eugene Ellsworth, 1994

THE SERVANT SONG

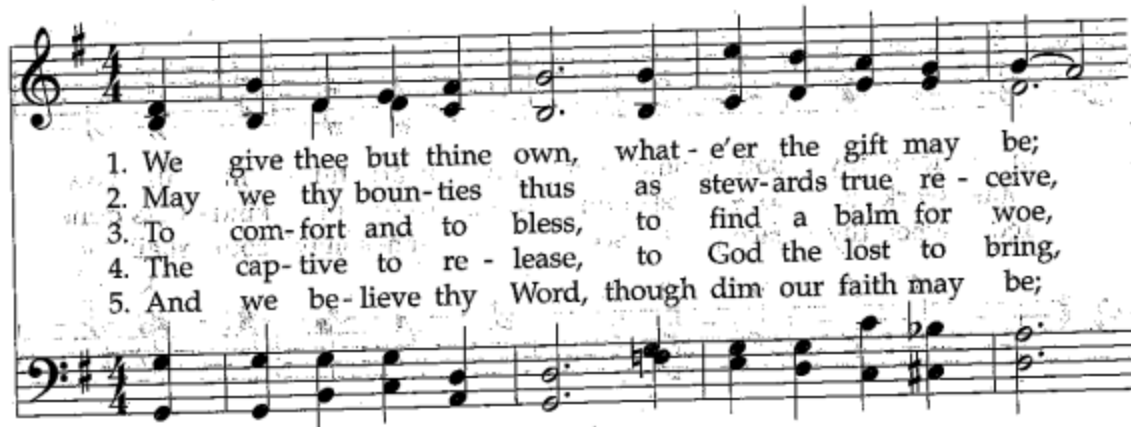
87.87

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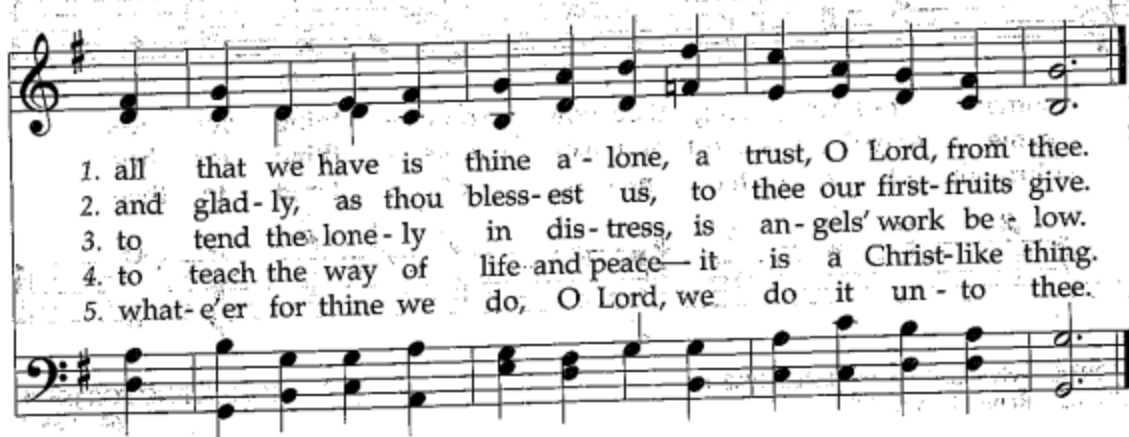
♩=100-104

We Give Thee but Thine Own

382



1. We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
 2. May we thy boun-ties thus as stew-ards true re - ceive,
 3. To com-fort and to bless, to find a balm for woe,
 4. The cap-tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
 5. And we be-lieve thy Word, though dim our faith may be;



1. all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 2. and glad-ly, as thou bless-est us, to thee our first-fruits give.
 3. to tend the lone-ly in dis-tress, is an-gels' work be - low.
 4. to teach the way of life and peace - it is a Christ-like thing.
 5. what-e'er for thine we do, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

WORDS: William W. How, c. 1858
 MUSIC: Mason and Webb's *Cantica Laudis*, 1850

SCHUMANN
 SM

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