



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



**CWS**  
Church World Service

October 8, 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**

'They'll Know We Are Christians'

No. 494

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

One: We come, for God gathers us here, within that community called faith...

**People: where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.**

One: We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace...

**People: where the naked are clothed in robes of hope; where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.**

One: We come, for God reunites us here, siblings in that family called love...

**People: where the imprisoned model justice, where the sick are cradled in God's peace. Let us worship God, together, in this space.**

### **OPENING PRAYER**

#### **PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE<sup>2</sup>**

**ALL: Almighty God, we stock the food pantry but brush aside those who hunger for friendship. We give our hand-me-downs away, but overlook those whose hopes have been stripped from their lives. We warm up to, and welcome, those are just like us; but turn a deaf ear to our neighbors who we think might "talk funny."**

**Forgive us, Hope of the ages. You persistently search for all of your children in the side streets of the world, gathering us up and bringing us home, so that we may be drenched in the waters of your bottomless pool of grace and forgiveness, welcomed by the warmth and compassion of Jesus. Amen.**

#### **WORDS OF GRACE<sup>2</sup>**

One: Friends, God searches for the lost,

**People: and God finds us.**

One: God invites the hungry to the table,

**People: and God feeds us.**

One: God sends Jesus,

**People: and through Jesus' love, God frees us from death's prison.**

One: God forgives all who sin,

**People: and God heals us with mercy and grace. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**A TIME FOR ALL AGES**

Dani Kardisco

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION**

'Lord, I Want to Be a Christian'

No. 589

## **SCRIPTURE**

### **Matthew 25:31-45**

31 "Now when the Human One comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left.

34 "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. 35 I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. 36 I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.'

37 "Then those who are righteous will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? 38 When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

40 "Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 I was hungry and you didn't give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn't give me anything to drink. 43 I was a stranger and you didn't welcome me. I was naked and you didn't give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

44 "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't do anything to help you?' 45 Then he will answer, 'I assure you that when you haven't done it for one of the least of these, you haven't done it for me.'

## **REFLECTION**

Adam Smedberg, Church World Service

## **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** 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling' No. 517

## **CALL FOR OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY** Alex Green

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE** 'Give Thanks' No. 528

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*HYMN** 'God Be with You Till We Meet Again' No. 434

## **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Alex Green

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

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Alex Green, Organist/Accompanist

Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

<sup>1</sup>Shuman, Thom. "Call to Worship: Matthew 25: 31-46." *Call to Worship: Matthew 25: 31-46*, re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/call-to-worship-matthew-25-31-46.html. Accessed 3 Oct. 2023.

<sup>2</sup>Shuman, Thom. *Confession: Proper 29A*, 20 Nov. 2011, re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/11/confession-proper-29a.html.

# 494 They'll Know We Are Christians

Guitar capo: 1; play Em

*Unison* Em

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

Am Em

we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
 we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
 we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

Am Em

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
 and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:  
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

*Refrain* C G C G Em Am

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love,

WORDS and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes, 1966

ST. BRENDAN'S  
 76.76.86 w. refrain

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Em Am Bm Em

yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in-a my heart, in-a my heart,  
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in-a my heart, in-a my heart,  
 3. Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in-a my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in-a my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in-a my heart.

In-a my heart, in-a my heart, in-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in-a my heart. (in-a my heart.)  
 Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in-a my heart. (in-a my heart.)  
 Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in-a my heart. (in-a my heart.)

WORDS: African-American spiritual  
 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; harm. Larry Sivis, 1993

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN  
 Int.

# 517 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in - to ev - ery trou-bled breast;  
 3. Come, al-might - y to de-liv-er, let us all thy life re-ceive;  
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less let us be,

fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy faith-ful mer-cies crown;  
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find thy prom-ised rest;  
 sud-den - ly re - turn and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem-ples leave.  
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per-fect - ly re-stored in thee;

Je - sus, thou art all com-pas-sion, pure, un-bound-ed love thou art;  
 take a - way our love of sin-ning; al-pha and o - me-ga be;  
 Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,  
 changed from glo-ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.  
 end of faith, as its be - gin-ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 pray, and praise thee with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.  
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1743  
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER  
 87.87D

# Give Thanks

528

*Unison* 



Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One; give  
 thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ his Son. Give  
 Son. And now let the weak say "I am strong"; let the  
 poor say "I am rich" be-cause of what the Lord has done for  
 us And us. Give us. Give thanks!

WORDS and MUSIC: Henry Smith, 1978

GIVE THANKS  
Irr.

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 = 60-68

# 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, 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