



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

And then Jesus Said,



February 18, 2024

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**

'Come and Find the Quiet Center'

No. 575

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

People: Lent calls us to journey - to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.

Leader: Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

People: Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

Leader: Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

People: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.

Leader: Lent calls us to journey with God.

People: Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

OPENING PRAYER²

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE³**

Leader: You are only as far away as the sound of our whispers will travel, O God, yet we so often struggle to speak with you intimately. We make small talk sometimes, thanking you for sun and rain, for gentle breezes and low humidity. Though we may be grateful, we know that chatting about the weather is something we do with casual acquaintances and even strangers.

People: Hear our purposeful prayers, O God.

Leader: We maintain substantial vocabularies - collections of words we use for term papers and interoffice memos and even for bantering with our friends. But do we use them to deepen the conversations we have with you?

People: Hear our purposeful prayers, O God.

Leader: Forgive us when we are shallow, seeking a quick blessing or a fast favor from you without being willing to invest fully in a trusting, committed relationship with you. Forgive us when we are one-sided, asking always for mercy and compassion, but not returning the same.

People: Hear our purposeful prayers, O God.

Leader: Forgive us when we approach you begging for guidance and direction, but then neglecting to follow your instructions. Forgive us when we cry out with our pressing questions, but then stop listening for your answers.

People: Hear our purposeful prayers, O God.

Leader: May we have another chance to appreciate the fullness of your love? May we try, once again, to shed our self-interest and find joy in serving your interests?

People: Hear our purposeful prayers, O God. Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE¹**

Friends, God does indeed hear our prayers - big and small - and God always seeks a deeper relationship with each one of us. Let us lean into that truth and pray for that deeper relationship to be felt in both our hearts, and in our very spirit. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

‘O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee’ (vs. 4)

No. 602

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco

***HYMN OF PREPARATION**

‘I Need Thee Every Hour’

No. 578

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:5-13

⁵“When you pray, don’t be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them. I assure you, that’s the only reward they’ll get. ⁶ But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

⁷“When you pray, don’t pour out a flood of empty words, as the Gentiles do. They think that by saying many words they’ll be heard. ⁸ Don’t be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask. ⁹ Pray like this:

*Our Father who is in heaven,
uphold the holiness of your name.*

¹⁰ *Bring in your kingdom
so that your will is done on earth as it’s done in heaven.*

¹¹ *Give us the bread we need for today.*

¹² *Forgive us for the ways we have wronged you,
just as we also forgive those who have wronged us.*

¹³ *And don’t lead us into temptation,
but rescue us from the evil one.*

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

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.

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY 'God So Loved the World' (Stainer)

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** 'Jesu, Jesu' (Refrain and vs. 5) No. 600

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 'Standing in the Need of Prayer' No. 579

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE 'In My Life' (Lord, Be Glorified) (Kilpatrick)

Participating In Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Alex Green, Music Director

Susannah Thornton, Soloist

Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹Shuman, Thom. "Lenten Call to Worship: A Call to Journey." *Lenten Call to Worship: A Call to Journey*, Lectionary Liturgies, re-worship.blogspot.com/2015/02/lenten-call-to-worship-call-to-journey.html. Accessed 14 Feb. 2024.

²Hamilton, Roddy. "Prayer: In Your Name." *Prayer: In Your Name*, Listening to the Stones, re-worship.blogspot.com/2015/09/prayer-in-your-name.html. Accessed 14 Feb. 2024.

³Sobania-Johnson, Rev. Christine. "Confession: Purposeful Prayers." *Confession: Purposeful Prayers*, Fresh Squeezed Liturgy, re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/06/confession-purposeful-prayers.html. Accessed 14 Feb. 2024.



Lent. A journey to the cross and beyond

Purple is the color for Lent. The color is associated with royalty and reminds us of the upside down world of Jesus who was mocked with a crown of thorns and a purple robe as he was tried for insurrection in the Roman Court. The sign at the cross named him the King of the Jews. His sentence was crucifixion. But we know that was not the end of the story. Followers of Jesus, the Christ, acknowledge him as Lord of God's New Kingdom to be established with Christ as the head of the church. Now we understand the purple to signify penitence and preparation as we make the journey with Jesus. The side panels depict the world ready to birth new beauty as it turns to Spring for us in this hemisphere once again.

575 Come and Find the Quiet Center

Unison F B \flat C7

1. Come and find the quiet cen - ter in the crowd-ed life we
 2. Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the
 3. In - the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's

F F B \flat

lead, find the room for hope to en - ter, find the
 pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our
 pain, let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e -

C7 F Am7

frame where we are freed: clear the cha - os and the
 be - ing, touch - es base, mak - ing space with - in our
 brate the space we gain: there's a place for deep - est

Dm Am7 Dm Am7 B \flat (C7)

clut - ter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the
 think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the sun, rais - ing
 dream - ing, there's a time for heart to care, in the

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray, 1989
 MUSIC: Traditional American melody; arr. Jack Schrader

BEACH SPRING
 87.87D

Words and arr. © 1992 Hope Publishing Co.

♩=70-74

F B \flat C7 F

things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.
 cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun.
 Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare!

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee 602

1. O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee in low - ly
 2. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
 3. Teach me thy pa - tience, still with thee in clos - er,
 4. In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice free; tell me thy se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - ening way; in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
 thou canst give, with thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

WORDS: Washington Gladden, 1879
 MUSIC: Henry Percy Smith, 1874

MARYTON
 LM

I Need Thee Every Hour

578

1. I need thee ev - ery hour, most gra - cious Lord;
 2. I need thee ev - ery hour; stay thou near by;
 3. I need thee ev - ery hour in joy or pain;
 4. I need thee ev - ery hour; teach me thy will,

no ten - der voice like thine can peace af - ford;
 temp - ta - tions lose their power when thou art nigh.
 come quick - ly, and a - bide or life is vain.
 and thy rich prom - is - es in me ful - fill.

Refrain

I need thee, oh, I need thee; ev - ery hour I need thee;

O bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come to thee.

WORDS: Annie S. Hawks, 1872; refrain, Robert Lowry, 1872
 MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1872

NEED
 64/64 w. refrain

Refrain (Unison)

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2. Neigh - bors are rich and poor, var - ied in col - or and
 3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
 4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we are
 5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

1. feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 2. race, neigh - bors are near and far a - way.
 3. love; all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
 4. slaves, this is the way we should live with you.
 5. feet, this is the way we should live with you.

WORDS: Tom Colvin, 1969
 MUSIC: Ghana folk song; arr. Tom Colvin, 1969; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

CHERPONI
 fr. w. refrain

579 Standing in the Need of Prayer

Refrain

It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord, stand-ing in the

need of prayer. It's me (it's me), it's

me, O Lord, stand-ing in the need of prayer. *Fine*

1. Not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's
 2. Not the preach - er, not the teach - er, but it's
 3. Not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's
 4. Not the strang - er, not my neigh - bor, but it's

WORDS: African-American spiritual
 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. William Farley Smith, 1986

PENITENT
 Irr.

Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

me, O Lord, stand-ing in the need of prayer.

Not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's
 Not the preach - er, not the teach - er, but it's
 Not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's
 Not the strang - er, not my neigh - bor, but it's

me, O Lord, stand-ing in the need of prayer. *D. C.*