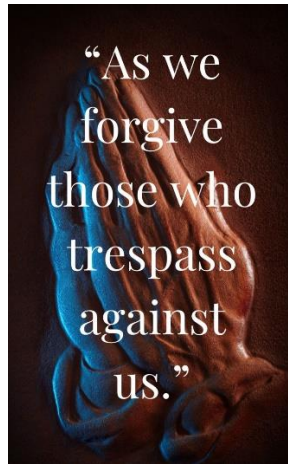




CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



March 17, 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**

'Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service'

No. 461

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: Let this be the welcoming place, the place of return...

People: ...and let it be built by a love that bends towards those who return here.

Leader: For it is love that has been waiting like a candle in the window, ever lighting the way back and never willing to let go the hope that each child will return home.

People: Let it be the place where the only appropriate response to love that has returned is to kill the fatted calf, feast and celebrate, and to send up balloons to prepare a party - for that which has been lost has returned to be among us once more.

OPENING PRAYER²

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE³**

ALL: Whenever self obscures the needs of others, forgive us.

Whenever we forget who is our neighbor, forgive us.

Whenever we pass by on the other side, forgive us.

Whenever we forget to say, "Well done!" forgive us.

Whenever we forget to simply give thanks, forgive us.

Whenever we forget the path that we tread, forgive us.

For all those times we bring a tear to your eye, bring us back into your forgiving arms and teach us once again, your way. Amen.

*WORDS OF GRACE

*SUNG RESPONSE

'Great Is Thy Faithfulness' (refrain only)

No. 86

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

'Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant' (vs 2-4)

No. 490

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.*

Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. ¹² The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them. ¹³ Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

¹⁴ "When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. ²¹ Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! ²³ Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting ²⁴ because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. ²⁷ The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. ²⁹ He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’ ³¹ Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”

SERMON

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 ‘A Gaelic Blessing’ (Traditional Gaelic/Rutter)

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN ‘They’ll Know We Are Christians’ No. 494

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE ‘Come, Christians, Join to Sing’ (Traditional Spanish/McDonald)

Participating In Today's Worship Service:

Alex Green, Music Director
Susannah Thornton, Soloist
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹Hamilton, Roddy. "Prayer Reflection: Return (Luke 15)." *Prayer Reflection: Return (Luke 15)*, Mucky Paws, re-worship.blogspot.com/2016/02/prayer-reflection-return-luke-15.html. Accessed 7 Mar. 2024.

²Siddall, Ann. "Prayer: Prodigal Son." *Prayer: Prodigal Son*, Stillpoint Spirituality Center, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/02/prayer-prodigal-son.html. Accessed 7 Mar. 2024.

³Birch, John. "Confession: Whenever We Forget." *Confession: Whenever We Forget*, Faith and Worship, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/06/confession-whenever-we-forget.html. Accessed 7 Mar. 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.

461 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

1. Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of
 2. Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry
 3. As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-
 4. Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear

hu-man need, who up-on the cross, for-sak-en,
 cry for bread; still the cap-tives long for free-dom;
 veal-ing light in its height and depth and great-ness
 name we go to the child, the youth, the a-ged,

of-fered mer-cy's per-fect deed: we, your ser-vants, bring the
 still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, your deep com-
 dawns up-on our quick-ened sight, mak-ing known the needs and
 love in liv-ing deeds to show; hope and health, good will and

wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart, con-se-crat-ing
 pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your
 bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear, stir-ring us to
 com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give, that your ser-vants,

WORDS: Albert F. Bayly, 1961, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White, 1844; harm. Ronald A. Nelson, 1978

BEACH SPRING
 87.87D

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 permission of Augsburg Fortress

$\text{♩} = 64-70$

to your pur- pose ev-ery gift that you im-part.
 Spir-it kin-dles still to save and make us whole.
 tire-less striv-ing your a-bun-dant life to share.
 Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know, and live.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

86

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

© 1923, renewed 1951, Hope Publishing Co.

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

Jesu, Jesu

600

Refrain (Unison)

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

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

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. *D.C.*
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

CHEREPONI

lir. w. refrain

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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 by permit 238291

Em Am Bm Em

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