



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



May 5, 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\**

*For those worshipping online with us, we are so glad you can join us virtually. During the time of learning through prayer stations, Pastor Jeff will be leading a short Bible study and you can be a part of that, as his voice will be amplified and the camera focused on him. If you would like to add your thoughts, type them into the chat on YouTube and Pastor Jeff will be able to see them. For any children at home, find paper and something to draw/write with and create your own picture of how to love one another.*

## **RINGING OF THE CHIMES**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Moriah Park

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Welcome to the community of faith, the family of God.

**All: We come seeking God's love.**

Leader: God's love is here for you.

**All: We come seeking connection with God.**

Leader: We follow Jesus, in compassion and love.

**All: We come to share this love with all.**

Leader: Let us worship our loving God.

**All: Let us worship together.**

### **\*OPENING SONG**

'This is the Day' (twice)

Les Garrett

Pulpit: This is the day

*Eagle: This is the day*

Pulpit: That the Lord has made

*Eagle: That the Lord has made*

Pulpit: We will rejoice

*Eagle: We will rejoice*

Pulpit: And be glad in it

*Eagle: And be glad in it*

**ALL: This is the day that the Lord has made.**

**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**This is the day, this is the day,**

**That the Lord has made**

## PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

### **Congregational response: You call us to forgiveness**

#### **\*Place hands over eyes\***

Leader: Risen Christ Jesus We are your disciples, though we have doubted and denied you, and closed our eyes to faith

**ALL: You call us to forgiveness.**

#### **\*Place fists on top of one another\***

Leader: We bring our desire for transformation to one another and to you. Where we have made you a stumbling block, not a building block for community

**ALL: You call us to forgiveness.**

#### **\*Slowly pull fists apart\***

Leader: Where we have used your name for dividing, excluding and accusing- Not uniting and healing or calling together

**ALL: You call us to forgiveness.**

#### **\*Make a raining motion\***

Leader: Where we have let waters of mercy stagnate and silt up, where we might have let justice roll down like rivers and been baptized in your cleansing grace and renewing life

**ALL: You call us to forgiveness.**

#### **\*Pulse hands upward\***

Leader: Where we have elevated leadership not laying ourselves down for the sake of others nor lifting up the lowly,

**ALL: You call us to forgiveness.**

#### **\*Cross hands across chest\***

Leader: Where we have cut off from others, and in doing so, disconnected from your living power and fruitfulness

**ALL: You call us to forgiveness.**

#### **\*Hands cupped in front of body\***

Leader: Where we have made many rules and neglected the one common liberating law of love.

**ALL: You call us to forgiveness.**

#### **\*Arms wide open\***

Leader: Open our eyes, open our ears, open our hearts to following you anew.

#### **\*Prayer hands\***

**ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## WORDS OF GRACE



## LITURGY OF BAPTISM

Today we celebrate the eternal truth of God's love for us as we baptize Cotter Anthony Chakoian. Kaitie Chakoian, Cotter's mother, will be joined by Cotter's Godparents - Cassandra Campbell and Anna Lifvergren - as they promise to remind Cotter of the covenant of community we all make during baptism.



## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Pastor Jeff & Jan Howard

### \*SONG OF PREPARATION

'Sanctuary'

**Lord, Prepare Me**  
Sanctuary

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and  
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,  
I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

TEXT: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982  
MUSIC: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982; arr. Nylea L. Butler-Moore

SANCTUARY  
CCLI # 1543869

## SCRIPTURE

### John 15:9-17

In the week leading up to his death, Jesus and the disciples were busy preparing for the Passover festival. One day, Jesus paused the busyness and gathered the disciples to remind them of one of his most important teachings.

"I love you," Jesus said. "You are my friends, and I love you. The love I share with you is the same love God has shared with me, and God's love is never-ending! There is more than enough for everyone."

“My friends, imagine this: imagine God’s love as a river. Have I ever stopped you from jumping into the cool water or said you’re not allowed to drink and quench your thirst? No! God’s love is for everyone to enjoy.”

“No matter what happens in the next few days, or the rest of your life, never stop swimming in the river of God’s love. My friends, the world needs this love. So, love each other just as I have loved you.”

(Paraphrased scripture from Illustrated Ministries)

## REFLECTION

Pastor Jeff & Dani Kardisco

## PRAYER STATIONS

**Dig Deeper:** Join Pastor Jeff in the pews toward the back of the Sanctuary for further study of the scripture and conversation this commandment from Jesus.

**God’s Love Watercolor:** Use watercolors to paint to find out just how much God loves you. Share with a family member or friend to let them know that you love them too.

**Heart Chain:** Work together to create a heart chain that will be hung in the Sanctuary as a reminder to always love one another as Jesus loves us.

**Thoughtful Coloring:** Spend time thinking over a scripture as you color. As you color, pray about how you can incorporate this scripture into your week.

*If you would like to participate in one of the stations, but have trouble getting to the tables, please raise your hand and a Deacon will help you get the supplies you need to participate.*

## 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/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### 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**

Leader: Loving God, in your generosity, we receive new blessings with each passing day.

**All: Great is your faithfulness, O God.**

Leader: You offer us light from the sun, moon, and stars to guide, nurture, and lovingly shine upon all creation.

**All: Great is your faithfulness, O God.**

Leader: Your loving generosity is more than we could ever hope for and beyond imagination.

**All: Great is your faithful abundance, O God.**

Leader: Let us give our offerings with a heart of gratitude.

**OFFERTORY**

'We Are One'

(Tate)

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

'Halle, Hallelujah' (twice)

No. 41

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION****SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**\*At Christ Congregational Church we serve communion at an open table, which means ALL are welcome to participate. This means a few things:**

1. None of the cups for communion contain wine.
2. People of all ages are welcome to receive communion.
3. People of all faiths are welcome to receive communion.
4. People of all gender identities and sexual orientations are welcome to receive communion.
5. People who are not able to come forward to receive communion are still welcome to receive it, please let a deacon know if you need the pastor or another server to bring the elements to you.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING****SONG OF THANKSGIVING** (Tune of Michael Row The Boat)

God is great, God is good, Alleluia  
 Let us thank God for our food, Alleluia.  
 By God's hand we all are fed, Alleluia  
 Thank you God, for daily bread, Alleluia.

**REMEMBERING THE STORY**

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

## SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*\*For communion today people are invited to come down the center aisle when signaled by one of our Deacons. Come to the front of the church to receive your elements, and then once you've consumed your bread and cup please proceed to your seat using one of the side aisles. If you are unable to come forward please let a member of our Deacons' board know so that we can bring communion to you in your seat.\**

**COMMUNION MUSIC** 'Let Us Break Bread Together' (Traditional/Ryan)

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(Sign Language with Mr. David)*

"Thank you God." "You are Good" "We are loved" "Amen"

## \*CLOSING SONG 'God's Got the Whole World in God's Hands'

God's got the whole world in God's hands x3  
God's got the whole world in God's hands

God's got the wind and the rain in God's hands x3  
God's got the whole world in God's hands.

God's got you and me sibling in God's hands x3  
God's got the whole world in God's hands

God's got the whole world in God's hands x3  
God's got the whole world in God's hands

## BENEDICTION

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE** 'Amen!' No. 317

**POSTLUDE** 'This Little Light of Mine' (Traditional/Radford)

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

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor  
Alex Green, Music Director  
Vanessa Naghdi, Guest Soloist  
Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director  
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

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

CHEREPONI  
 Irr. w. refrain

# Halle-Halle-Halleluja

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Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-lu-ja. Hal - le - lu - ja.

MUSIC: Caribbean

317

A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men.

MUSIC: African-American

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