



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



June 1, 2025

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**

‘We Call Ourselves Disciples’

No. 357

CALL TO GATHERING

Leader: Come, beloved community— To the God who hears our songs in the night and meets us in every struggle.

People: We come to worship the God who breaks chains and opens doors we thought were sealed shut.

Leader: Even in suffering, the Spirit stirs. Even in fear, grace finds us.

People: We are here for freedom, for healing, for hope.

ALL: Let us worship the One who makes all things new. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER¹

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹**

ALL: O God, forgive us when we fail to respond to your call with faith. Forgive us when we are shackled by our narrow understandings of discipleship and our clouded sense of purpose. Forgive us when we are frightened of the future or pull back from the demand of your calling. Forgive us when we fail to sense your presence in our past, to acknowledge your grace in the present moment, and to trust you for our future. Through your Spirit we offer ourselves in discipleship. We stand together as your disciples. We seek renewed and renewing faith. Touch us now with your Spirit, Lord. Touch us now with your Spirit.

***WORDS OF GRACE¹**

***SUNG RESPONSE**

‘I Have Decided to Follow Jesus’ vs. 1

No. 344

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco

HYMN OF PREPARATION

‘Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service’

No. 461

SCRIPTURE

Acts 16:16-34

Paul and Silas in prison

16 One day, when we were on the way to the place for prayer, we met a slave woman. She had a spirit that enabled her to predict the future. She made a lot of money for her owners through fortune-telling. **17** She began following Paul and us, shouting, “These people are servants of the Most High God! They are proclaiming a way of salvation to you!” **18** She did this for many days.

This annoyed Paul so much that he finally turned and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to leave her!” It left her at that very moment.

19 Her owners realized that their hope for making money was gone. They grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the officials in the city center. **20** When her owners approached the legal authorities, they said, “These people are causing an uproar in our city. They are Jews **21** who promote customs that we Romans can’t accept or practice.” **22** The crowd joined in the attacks against Paul and Silas, so the authorities ordered that they be stripped of their clothes and beaten with a rod. **23** When Paul and Silas had been severely beaten, the authorities threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to secure them with great care. **24** When he received these instructions, he threw them into the innermost cell and secured their feet in stocks.

25 Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. **26** All at once there was such a violent earthquake that it shook the prison’s foundations. The doors flew open and everyone’s chains came loose. **27** When the jailer awoke and saw the open doors of the prison, he thought the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword and was about to kill himself. **28** But Paul shouted loudly, “Don’t harm yourself! We’re all here!”

29 The jailer called for some lights, rushed in, and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. **30** He led them outside and asked, “Honorable masters, what must I do to be rescued?”

31 They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your entire household.” **32** They spoke the Lord’s word to him and everyone else in his house. **33** Right then, in the middle of the night, the jailer welcomed them and washed their wounds. He and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. **34** He brought them into his home and gave them a meal. He was overjoyed because he and everyone in his household had come to believe in God.

SERMON

Rev. Jeff 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

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.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY¹

OFFERTORY

'Order My Steps'

(Burleigh/Rouse)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

'Seed, Scattered and Sown' (Refrain)

No. 395

PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹



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. *Communion today will be served in the pews. If you haven't already received a communion cup from one of our Deacons, and you are limited in your mobility to go and get one now, please let a member of the Deacons know and they'll be happy to assist you.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

REMEMBERING THE STORY

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Communion today will be served in the pews. Please wait to eat your wafer, and to drink your cup, until everyone is prompted to do so together. Please see a member of the Deacons if you haven't received your sealed communion cup to participate at your seat.

COMMUNION MUSIC

'Be Still, My Soul'

(Sibelius/Raney)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Gracious God, Thank you for meeting us at this table— for feeding us with love that sets us free. Be with us in every struggle and every song. Send us out with courage, to break chains, open doors, and live your justice.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen.**

***HYMN**

'Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ'

No. 422

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

'O Praise the Name'

(Sampson, et al.)

Participating In Todays Worship Service:

**Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor
Alex Green, Music Director
Laura Ramos, Soloist
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter
Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director**

¹*Prayers and Readings for Worship*, Volume 2, Peter Judd, ed. (Herald Publishing House, 1996, ISBN 9780830907199), 22. Posted on the **Community of Christ** website.

<http://www.cofchrist.org/worship12-13/13-05-12.asp>

1. We call our-selves dis - ci - ples, as pil-grims on the way.
 2. The cup and cross be-fore us, pro-claim our hope a - bove,
 3. We're bap-tized in the Spir - it, in wa-ters God pro-vides.
 4. We join with all dis - ci - ples to live the Word in deed,
 5. So now the vi - sion bright - ens, the light of Christ burns still

1. We seek the truth in wis - dom, and beau - ty in each day.
 2. the sign of our Re - deem - er, the ves - sel of his love.
 3. In Christ we rise to new - ness, for in him we have died.
 4. to share the cup of wa - ter and bread with all in need;
 5. in hearts of all dis - ci - ples to be the church God wills.

1. As wom - en, men, and chil - dren, we serve, Christ's path to clear.
 2. Once more the cross is lift - ed, the cup poured out for all.
 3. Now dead to powers of e - vil, and free from hope - less fears,
 4. to work till God's com - pass - ion and righ - teous - ness pre - vail,
 5. From qui - et med - i - ta - tion, and joy - ous hymns of praise,

1. In joy - ful ex - pec - ta - tion we see God's reign draw near.
 2. When gath - ered at the ta - ble we hear our com - mon call.
 3. we live with faith and pur - pose, cre - a - tive through the years.
 4. till all this plan - et's peo - ple know jus - tice with - out fail.
 5. we go to do God's mis - sion! Christ, lead us all our days!

WORDS: Jim Miller, 1984
 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1836

LANCASHIRE
 76.76D

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus 344

Unison

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -
 2. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be -
 3. Though none go with me, I still will fol - low, though none go
 4. Will you de - cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
 hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -
 with me, I still will fol - low, though none go with me, I still will
 cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de - cide now to fol - low

Je - sus— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fore me— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 fol - low— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
 Je - sus?— No turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

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

Words © 1961 Oxford University Press, Inc.; harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, reprinted by
 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.

Seed, Scattered and Sown

Seed, scat-tered and sown, wheat, gath-ered and
 grown, bread, bro-ken and shared as one, the
 Liv - ing Bread of God. Vine, fruit of the
 land, wine, work of our hands,
 one cup that is shared by all; the Liv - ing Cup, the

Liv - ing Bread of God. God.
 1. Is not the bread we break a shar - ing in our
 2. The seed which falls on rock will with - er and will
 3. As wheat up - on the hills was gath - ered and was
 Lord? Is not the cup we bless the
 die. The seed with - in good ground will
 grown, so may the church of God be
 blood of Christ out - poured?
 flow - er and have life.
 gath - ered in - to one.

WORDS: Dan Feiten, 1987
 MUSIC: Dan Feiten, 1987; arr. Eric Gunnison and R. J. Miller, alt.
 © 1987 Ekklesia Music, Inc.

SEED SCATTERED
 lrr.
 ♩=88-96

422 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

1. Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy. Reach - ing out with a
 2. Christ is a - ble to make us one. At the ta - ble he
 3. Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a

shout of joy: bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured,
 sets the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:

Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain,
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!

Maracas, tambourine, and other rhythm instruments may also be used.

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1975
 MUSIC: Jamaican folk melody, adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975

LINSTEAD
 LM w. refrain

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♩=128-136

earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!