



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



July 27, 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

Jan Howard

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** 'Womb Of Life, And Source Of Being'

No. 14

CALL TO GATHERING¹ (*Inspired by Psalm 85*)

Leader: Righteousness will go before our God; peace makes its path.

ALL: Restore us, O God, and stir anger within for the pain and injustices of the world.

Leader: Righteousness will go before our God; peace makes its path.

All: Revive us, O God, and bring joy to our hearts and a song of praise on our lips.

Leader: Righteousness will go before our God; peace makes its path.

ALL: Redeem us, O God, and call your people back to you in spirit and in truth.

OPENING PRAYER¹

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹**

ALL: God Who Reigns in Glory and meets us in need, we seek your forgiveness and restoration. We drown in a system of debt rather than generosity and common good. May our obligations not burden us, and may we not burden others when compassion is abundantly available. We struggle not to encroach on our neighbor's territory when boundaries are arbitrary and limiting rather than purposeful and expansive. Help us turn from sin and temptation as well as guilt and shame when we struggle to live fully in your kin-dom.

***WORDS OF GRACE¹**

***SUNG RESPONSE** 'Tis The Gift To Be Simple'

No. 568

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco

HYMN OF PREPARATION

'Seek Ye First'

No. 354

SCRIPTURE (Genesis 18:20-32 & Luke 11:1-13)

Genesis 18:20-32

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "The cries of injustice from Sodom and Gomorrah are countless, and their sin is very serious! ²¹ I will go down now to examine the cries of injustice that have reached me. Have they really done all this? If not, I want to know."

²² The men turned away and walked toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing in front of the LORD.^[a] ²³ Abraham approached and said, "Will you really sweep away the innocent^[b] with the guilty?^[c] ²⁴ What if there are fifty innocent people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not save the place for the sake of the fifty innocent people in it? ²⁵ It's not like you to do this, killing the innocent with the guilty as if there were no difference. It's not like you! Will the judge of all the earth not act justly?"

²⁶ The LORD said, "If I find fifty innocent people in the city of Sodom, I will save it because of them."

²⁷ Abraham responded, "Since I've already decided to speak with my Lord, even though I'm just soil and ash, ²⁸ what if there are five fewer innocent people than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city over just five?"

The LORD said, "If I find forty-five there, I won't destroy it."

²⁹ Once again Abraham spoke, "What if forty are there?"

The LORD said, "For the sake of forty, I will do nothing."

³⁰ He said, "Don't be angry with me, my Lord, but let me speak. What if thirty are there?"

The LORD said, "I won't do it if I find thirty there."

³¹ Abraham said, "Since I've already decided to speak with my Lord, what if twenty are there?"

The LORD said, "I won't do it, for the sake of twenty."

³² Abraham said, "Don't be angry with me, my Lord, but let me speak just once more. What if there are ten?"

And the LORD said, "I will not destroy it because of those ten."

Luke 11:1-13

11 Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

² Jesus told them, "When you pray, say:

'Father, uphold the holiness of your name.

Bring in your kingdom.

³ Give us the bread we need for today.

⁴ Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who has wronged us.
And don't lead us into temptation.'"

⁵ He also said to them, "Imagine that one of you has a friend and you go to that friend in the middle of the night. Imagine saying, 'Friend, loan me three loaves of bread' ⁶ because a friend of mine on a journey has arrived and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷ Imagine further that he answers from within the house, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up to give you anything.' ⁸ I assure you, even if he wouldn't get up and help because of his friendship, he will get up and give his friend whatever he needs because of his friend's brashness. ⁹ And I tell you: Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ Everyone who asks, receives. Whoever seeks, finds. To everyone who knocks, the door is opened.

¹¹ "Which father among you would give a snake to your child if the child asked for a fish? ¹² If a child asked for an egg, what father would give the child a scorpion? ¹³ If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

SERMON

Pastor Jeffrey Kardisco

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

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

'God Bless Our "No"'

(Traditional/Brown)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

'The God Of Abraham Praise' (vs. 3)

No. 24

PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹

*HYMN

'Sing Praise To God Who Reigns Above'

No. 6

BENEDICTION

Participating In Todays Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Alex Green, Music Director

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

¹Lindsay, Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. "After Pentecost 7C - July 27." *United Church of Christ, Worship Ways: United Church of Christ*, 15 July 2025, www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-7c-july-27/.

14 Womb of Life, and Source of Being

1. Womb of life, and source of be - ing, home of ev - 'ry
 2. Word in flesh, our bro - ther Je - sus, born to bring us
 3. Brood - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us; be our part - ner,
 4. Moth - er, Broth - er, ho - ly Part - ner; Fath - er, Spir - it,

rest - less heart, in your arms the worlds a - wak - ened; you have
 sec - ond birth, you have come to stand be - side us, know - ing
 be our friend. When our mem - 'ry fails, re - mind us whose we
 On - ly Son: we would praise your name for - ev - er, one - in -

loved us from the start. We, your chil - dren, gath - er
 weak - ness, know - ing earth. Priest who shares our hu - man
 are, what we in - tend. La - bor with us, aid the
 three, and three - in - one. We would share your life, your

'round you, at the ta - ble you pre - pare. Shar - ing sto - ries,
 strug - gles, Life of Life, and Death of Death, ris - en Christ, come
 birth - ing of the new world yet to be, free of ser - vant,
 pas - sion, share your word of world made new, ev - er sing - ing,

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1986, 1990

MUSIC: Traditional Dutch melody; arr. Julius Roentgen, 1906

IN BABILONE

87.87D

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tears, and laugh - ter, we are nur - tured by your care.
 stand a - mong us, send the Spir - it by your breath.
 lord, and mas - ter, free for love and u - ni - ty.
 ev - er prais - ing, one with all, and one with you.

'Tis the Gift to Be Simple

G Em Bm^{*} Em

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the

Am A D

gift to come down where we ought to be, and

G Em Bm^{*}

when we find our-selves in the place just right, 'twill

Am D G

be in the val - ley of love and de - light.

Bm^{*} Em Bm^{*}

When true sim - plic - i - ty is gained to

*Optional chord D.

WORDS: Shaker song (18th century)
MUSIC: Shaker melody; arr. Margaret W. Mealy, 1984

SIMPLE GIFTS
Irr. w. refrain

Arr. © 1984 Margaret W. Mealy

♩=60

Em G D G C

bow and to bend we shan't be a-shamed, to turn, turn, will

G Am D G Am7 G

be our de-light till by turn - ing, turn - ing we come round right.

Seek Ye First

354

Descant D F#m G D G

Al - - - le - - - lu - - - ia, Al-

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and God's
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and

D Em7 A7sus D F#m

le - - - lu - ia, Al - - - le-

right - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

G D G Em D

lu - - - ia, Al - - - le - - lu - ia!

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS and MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1972

SEEK YE FIRST
Irr.

© 1972 Maranatha! Music

$\text{♩} = 72-80$

1. The God of A-braham praise. All prais-ed be the Name,
 2. God's spir - it flow-ing free, high surg-ing where it will—
 3. God has e - ter - nal life im - plant-ed in the soul.

who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same;
 in proph-et's word it spoke of old— is speak - ing still.
 God's love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.

the one e - ter - nal God, ere all that now ap - pears,
 Es - tab - lished is God's law, and change-less it shall stand,
 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be the Name,

the First, the Last, be - yond all thought through time - less years!
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea, or land.
 who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same!

WORDS: Daniel ben Judah (14th century); tr. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1885; alt.
 MUSIC: Hebrew melody, transcribed by Meyer Leoni c. 1770

LEONI
 66.84D

6 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1. Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -
 2. Our God is nev - er far a - way, but through all grief dis -
 3. Then all my glad - some way a - long, I sing a - loud your
 4. Let all who name Christ's ho - ly name give God all praise and

a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of
 tress - ing, an ev - er pres - ent help and stay, our peace and
 prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful song my voice un -
 glo - ry; let all who own God's power pro - claim a - loud the

our sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm my soul is filled and
 joy and bless - ing. As with a moth - er's ten - der hand, God
 wea - ried rais - es. Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, both
 won - drous sto - ry! Cast each false i - dol from its throne, for

ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stilled: to God all praise and glo - ry.
 gent - ly leads the cho - sen band: to God all praise and glo - ry.
 soul and bod - y bear your part: to God all praise and glo - ry.
 Christ is Lord, and Christ a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry.

WORDS: Johann J. Schütz, 1675; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1864, alt.
 MUSIC: Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesänge, 1566; harm. Maurice F. Bell, 1906

MIT FREUDEN ZART
 87.87.887