



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



August 17, 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

Matt Howard

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

'Sweet Hour Of Prayer'

No. 570

CALL TO WORSHIP¹ *(Inspired By Psalm 80)*

Leader: Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted.

ALL: The world is ablaze around us with pain and suffering, natural disasters and human schemes, injustice and brokenness.

Leader: Create again, O God of Fire; respond to the needs of your people and shepherd us to be good stewards of your creation.

ALL: Let your Holy Fire meet the infernos that seek to consume us with refining and renewing power.

Leader: Redeem again, O God of hosts; ignite a flame within your kin-dom that will spread as a wildfire of righteousness and love.

ALL: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

GATHERING PRAYER¹

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco

***HYMN**

'I Need Thee Every Hour'

No. 578

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹**

ALL: Transforming One, forgive us for dampening your fire, even for our failure to recognize your movement among us. Help us to follow in the path of life abundantly for our neighbors and ourselves. Make us instruments of your kin-dom as we encourage and uplift one another like iron sharpens iron. Surround us as a community of accountability and support to transform us in your image, character, and nature. We receive the gift of new grace, new mercies, and new life that you offer to us each day. Amen.

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS¹**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 12:49-56

Conflicts brought by Jesus

⁴⁹ "I came to cast fire upon the earth. How I wish that it was already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism I must experience. How I am distressed until it's completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, I have come instead to bring division. ⁵² From now on, a household of five will be divided—three against two and two against three. ⁵³ Father will square off against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Learning and practicing good judgment

⁵⁴ Jesus also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud forming in the west, you immediately say, 'It's going to rain.' And indeed it does. ⁵⁵ And when a south wind blows, you say, 'A heat wave is coming.' And it does. ⁵⁶ Hypocrites! You know how to interpret conditions on earth and in the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret the present time?"

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

'Nearer, My God, To Thee'

(Adams/Mason)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE	'What A Friend We Have In Jesus' (vs. 1)	No. 585
PRAYER OF THANKSVIVING AND DEDICATION¹		
*HYMN	'Be Still, My Soul'	No. 566
BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	'Lead On, O King Eternal'	(Smart/Smith)

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 10c - August 17." *United Church of Christ: Worship Ways*, United Church of Christ, 8 Aug. 2025, www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-10c-august-17/.

Sweet Hour of Prayer!

1. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! that calls me
 2. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! the joys I
 3. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! thy wings shall

from a world of care, and bids me at my
 feel, the bliss I share of those whose anx - ious
 my pe - ti - tion bear to him whose truth and

Fa - ther's throne make all my wants and wish - es known.
 spir - its burn with strong de - sires for thy re - turn!
 faith - ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.

In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief, my soul has
 With such I has - ten to the place where God my
 And since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his

WORDS: William Walford, 1845
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1861

SWEET HOUR
 LMD

of - ten found re - lief, and oft es - caped the
 Sav - ior shows his face, and glad - ly take my
 word, and trust his grace, I'll cast on him my

tempt - er's snare by thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer!
 sta - tion there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!
 ev - ery care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

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

If You Will Trust in God to Guide You 565

1. If you will trust in God to guide you, and hope in God through
 2. God will embrace your pain and weep-ing, your help-less an-ger
 3. Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un-swerv-ing; so do your own part

all your ways, God will give strength, what-e'er be-tide you,
 and dis-tress. If you are in God's care and keep-ing,
 faith-ful-ly, and trust God's word; though un-de-serv-ing,

and bear you through the e-vil days. Who trusts in God's un-
 in-sor-row will God love you less? For Christ, who took for
 you'll find God's pro-mise true to be. God nev-er will for-

chang-ing love builds on the rock that will not move.
 you a cross, will bring you safe through ev-ery loss.
 sake in need the soul that trusts in God in-deed.

WORDS: Georg Neumark, 1657; tr. st. 1, 3, Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.; WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT
 st. 2 tr. Jaroslav Vajda, alt. 98.98.88
 MUSIC: Georg Neumark, 1657

585 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to the Lord in prayer!

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer,
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

WORDS: Joseph Scriven, 1855
 MUSIC: Charles C. Converse, 1868

CONVERSE
 87.87D

Be Still, My Soul

1. Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;
 2. Be still, my soul: for God will un-der-take
 3. Be still, my soul: the hour is has-tening on

bear pa-tient-ly the cross of grief or pain.
 to guide the fu-ture sure-ly as the past.
 when we shall dwell with God for-ev-er more,

Trust in your God, your sav-ior and your guide,
 Your hope, your con-fi-dence let noth-ing shake;
 when dis-ap-point-ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang-es faith-ful will re-main.
 all now mys-te-rious shall be bright at last.
 sor-row for-got, love's pur-est joys re-stored.

WORDS: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1855, alt.
 MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933

FINLANDIA
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Arr. © 1933, renewed 1961, Presbyterian Board of Christian Education

Be still, my soul: your best, your heaven-ly friend
 Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
 Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,

through thorn-y ways leads to a peace-ful end.
 the voice that calmed them in this world be-low.
 all safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.