



This year the Great Pie Challenge will be held on Sunday, May 21st after the Service. Thank you to all who have signed up to bake pies so far!! We are in need of many more pies to match our own previous bounty. Please contact Annmarie Pendola (617-549-9164) to let her know how many pies you are making. Get your tummies and forks ready! Pies can be dropped off that morning.

#### **CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

United Church of Christ  
5 Summer St. Lynnfield MA 01940  
781-334-3050 [www.Centre-Church.org](http://www.Centre-Church.org)  
We Welcome Everyone: An Open and Affirming Church

The Rev. Lori Anne Wyckoff, Senior Pastor  
Larainne Wilson, Director of Faith Formation  
Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director  
Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School  
Alison O'Connor, Church Administrator



***Let Go: Leaving Behind  
What We Don't Need***

#### **CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

United Church of Christ  
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

**May 14, 2023**

**10:00 am**

## WE GATHER

### Prelude

*Couplet Du Gloria*

Couperin

### Welcome

## Preparing For New Life

## Questions for Metamorphosis

Larainne: While our spiritual ancestors were living in Egypt, they wondered...

**People: ...how long must we endure this oppression?**

When they left Egypt and followed Moses in the desert, they wondered...

**...is this really any better than our old life in Egypt?**

When we feel the urge to make a change in our lives, we wonder...

**...how much longer can I go on like this?**

When we consider the cost of change, we wonder...

**...what is the cost if I stay the same?**

Then the love of the Divine reminds us,

**"You too are my child.**

**You can emerge to renewed life.**

**Again and again."**

**Amen.**

## Opening Hymn

\*I'm Pressing on the Upward Way

#442

## Mini Message

\*stand as you are able

## Take My Life

**1 Take my life, God, let it be  
consecrated faithfully.**

**Take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**2 Take my spirit, let it move  
at the impulse of your love.**

**Take my intellect and use  
all its powers as you choose.**

**3 Take my will; your will be done!  
Make your will and mine be one.**

**Take my heart, and by your grace  
make of it your dwelling place.**

**4 Take my love and help it grow;  
let my loving overflow.**

**Take me now, and help me be  
part of Christ's community.**



# The Baptisms of Vanessa, Lucas, and Joseph Masiello

## *I'm Pressing on the Upward Way*

1 I'm pressing on the upward way,  
new heights I'm gaining every day;  
Still praying as I'm onward bound,  
"O plant me, God, on higher ground."

Refrain:

O lift me up, and I shall be  
by faith in heaven eternally,  
A higher plane than I have found,  
O plant me, God, on higher ground.

2 My heart has no desire to stay  
where doubts arise and fears dismay;  
Though some may dwell where these abound,  
my prayer, my aim is higher ground. [Refrain]

3 I want to live above the world,  
Though Satan's darts at me are hurled;  
For faith has caught a joyful sound,  
the song of saints on higher ground. [Refrain]

4 I want to scale the utmost height,  
and catch a gleam of glory bright;  
But still I'll pray till heaven I've found,  
"God, lead me on the higher ground." [Refrain]

## Song of Preparation

*Are Ye Able*

"Are ye able?" Still the [Savior]  
whispers down eternity,  
and heroic spirits answer,  
"Now, as then, in Galilee."

Lord, we are able!  
Our spirits are Thine.  
Remold them, make us,  
like Thee, divine.  
Thy guiding radiance  
above us shall be  
a beacon to God,  
to love, and loyalty.

## Scripture Reading

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Barbara Langill

## Response

Barbara: The Word of God for the People of God,  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Anthem

*Come As A Child*

Wilson

## Sermon

"Letting Go: The Hardest Work"

Rev. Lori Anne Wyckoff



## WE PRAY

### Entering into Prayer

*Open Me* Kirkland and McFee

Form me... hold me... open me... unfold me... unfurl me...  
untether me... uncurl me... uncrease me... unwrap me...

### Pastoral Prayer

#### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## THE OFFERING

Call to the Offering  
Offertory  
Doxology

*The 23rd Psalm*

McFerrin

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God, all creatures high and low.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise God, in Jesus fully known:**

**Creator, Word, and Spirit one.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Prayer of Dedication

## WE EMERGE INTO NEW LIFE

### Announcements

### Closing Hymn

*\*Take My Life, Let it Be*

#448

### Blessing and Benediction

### Postlude

*Fugue Sur Les Jeux D'Anches*

Couperin

The flowers on the altar today are given by Linda Ladd, in memory of my mother Elaine McKenney Levis, my grandmothers, aunts and so many other wonderful strong women who have mothered me with care and inspiration. You know who you are! THANK you!!

Our ushers this morning are Steve Riley and Jeff Langill.

Our coffee fellowship host is Linda Ladd and the Social & Environmental Ministries Team.

### Worship Notes

**Liturgy:** Marcia McFee © [www.worshipdesignstudio.com/emerge](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/emerge). Used and adapted with permission.

**Open Me** by Rev. Elaine B. Kirkland with lyrics by Dr. Marcia McFee.

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**Celebration of Baptism**



*Vanessa, Lucas, and Joseph Masiello*  
*Children of Shanelle and Neil Masiello*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

(responsively)

**LEADER:** Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

**PEOPLE:** **There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God’s call to us. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, Creator of us all.**

**LEADER:** Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united with Jesus Christ, and given part in Christ’s ministry of reconciliation. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness and the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be Christ’s disciples always.

**PEOPLE:** **This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members in Christ’s body.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 10:13-16 (responsively)

**LEADER:** They were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them:

**PEOPLE:** **“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”**

**LEADER:** And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

**PRESENTATION OF THE WATER FOR BAPTISM**

Vanessa Elle Masiello

**PROMISES OF THE PARENTS AND GODPARENTS**

- Who brings these children for baptism? **Parents: We do.**
- Do you, Shanelle and Neil, desire to have your children baptized into this Christian community? **We do.**
- Will you journey with them to discover the wonder of God’s love? **We will.**
- Will you encourage them to learn from the wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God? **We will.**

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- Will you foster for them an appreciation for the life and teachings of Jesus? **We will.**
- Will you teach them to honor and explore the faith questions that come to them throughout their lives and to respect others’ journeys of meaning-making? **We will.**
- Will you participate regularly with them in the worship, life, support, work, and mission of the church of Jesus Christ as it serves the community and the world? **We will.**

- And do all of you who stand as godparents promise to support these children and their parents in the promises made this day? Do you promise to nurture these children as they explore the ways of God and as they grow in faith? **Godparents: We do.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (please stand as you are able)**

**LEADER:** As a sign of covenant with those baptized this day let us all join with those participating and with the church in all times and places in affirming our faith.

Do you believe in God the Source, the fountain of life? **I believe in God.**

Do you believe in Christ the Servant, embodied in Jesus of Nazareth and in the church?

**I believe in Christ.**

Do you believe in the Spirit the Guide, the liberating wellspring of life? **I believe in the Spirit.**

**CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT (please remain standing)**

**LEADER:** Jesus calls us to make disciples of others, and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. On behalf of the Christian Church in every place, do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support and care to these children as they live and grow in Christ?

**PEOPLE: We promise our love, support, and care.**

**BAPTISM OF VANESSA ELLE MASIELLO  
BAPTISM OF LUCAS ANTHONY MASIELLO  
BAPTISM OF JOSEPH JAMES MASIELLO**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of wonder and grace, we thank you for your love revealed here this day as we in this community come together in covenant with Vanessa, Lucas, Joseph and their parents Shanelle and Neil. We pray that this community will have the grace to uphold the promises made here this day, so that we may provide a safe shelter of your love in which they may learn and grow. Give to all of us strength for life’s journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

**PRESENTATIONS AND WELCOME**

**Vanessa’s godparents are Eric Masiello and Danica D’Alfonso.  
Lucas' godparents are Anthony Rallo and Corina D’Alfonso.  
Joseph's godparents are James Falzarano and Katherine Rowe.**

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