

**Sermon Hymn**

\*We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

#563

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 25: 31-45

Jeff Law

**Response**

Jeff: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

"The Spirit of Service"

Rev. Dr. Priscilla Lawrence

**Closing Hymn**

\*Congregation's Choice

**Blessing and Benediction**

**Postlude**



Please join us on Sunday, July 30th for our Christmas in July Service -Pajama/Toy Drive. This is your chance to not only sing your favorite Christmas carols but to also help the Cradles to Crayons Foundation. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy or pajamas that Sunday to put under the tree. Hope you can all join us.

Our ushers this morning are Scott Barke and Annmarie Pendola  
Our coffee fellowship hosts are Peter and Laurel Caputo

**CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

United Church of Christ

5 Summer St. Lynnfield MA 01940

781-334-3050 www. Centre-Church.org

We Welcome Everyone: An Open and Affirming Church

The Rev. Dr. Priscilla Lawrence, Bridge Pastor  
Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director  
Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School  
Alison O'Connor, Church Administrator



# Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

*Rev. Dr. Priscilla Lawrence*

## **CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

United Church of Christ

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

**July 23, 2023**

**10:00 am**

## WE GATHER

### Silent Prayer of Preparation

Look to the mountains and know this truth: God, our help, is stronger, and mightier than the mightiest mountain. God's help is stronger than any trouble this world can throw our way.

### Prelude

### Greeting, Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship (based on Psalm 110)

Minister: This is none other than the house of God.

**People: This is nothing less than the gate of heaven.**

Minister: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

**People: God hems us in, behind and before, and lays hands of blessing upon us.**

Minister: Such knowledge is too wonderful for us. It is so high we cannot attain it.

**People: Rest in the majesty of our God. Give thanks and sing of God's glory.**

Minister: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

**People: Let us worship!**

### Opening Hymn

*\*Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing*

#303

### \*Unison Opening Prayer

Caretaker of our souls, you search us and know us; you are acquainted with all our ways. You discern our thoughts from afar. If we take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead us, and your might shall hold us fast. How can we bear such wonder? How can we fathom such awe and splendour? Breathe your Spirit upon us, and claim us as children of light, that we might be found worthy of your love and care.

### \* 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.

\*stand as you are able

## Psalm 139 - Scripture – Prayer Litany

**Minister: O Lord, you have searched us. You have known us.**

People: No one knows us better than you do, most Holy God. No one understands us the way that you can.

**Minister: You know the paths we choose to travel. You know when we lie down to rest.**

People: Guide us as we take the next steps on our journey. Help us to choose the right path and remind us to rest and to find our rest in you, always.

**Minister: You discern what we are thinking from far away. You are well acquainted with all of our ways.**

People: May our thoughts be worthy of you, O God. And may we confess and quickly let go of anything that is not of you.

**Minister: Even before we speak, you know what we will say.**

People: May we choose to speak words that are kind and helpful. May we choose to keep silent when our words are unkind or will not help.

**Minister: You go in front of us and behind us.**

People: We look ahead, O God. You are there. We look behind, O Lord. You are there. Intertwined with our past and our future, and clearly with us now in the present, you are here. You never leave us alone.

**Minister: It is almost too much to comprehend, O Lord, for you know us and accompany us completely.**

People: Accompany us this day and every day. Amen

### Pastoral Prayer

### Offering

Call to the Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology

Tune: Old 100th

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Christ, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Holy Spirit evermore;**

**Praise Living God, whom we adore**

\*Prayer of Dedication