

Our ushers this morning are Annmarie Pendola, Jeff Langill,  
Steve Riley and Jeff Law

The flowers on the alter this morning are in celebration of  
Rev. Thomas Bentley

Our coffee fellowship hosts this morning are Janet Everson, Nancy Lauzon  
and Carol MacKendrick



#### **Worship Notes.**

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#### **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. Thomas Bentley, Pastor  
Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director  
Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School  
Alison O'Connor, Church Administrator



*Rev. Thomas Bentley*

## **CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

United Church of Christ  
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

**October 1, 2023**

**10:00 am**

## WE GATHER

### Prelude

*Elevation*

Mendelssohn

### Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome to God's house! We are delighted to have you here!

**People: We hunger for God's word of hope.**

Leader: You have come to the right place. Here you will be fed on the life-giving love of God.

**People: We thirst for God's healing in our lives.**

Leader: At the table of the Lord, you will be fed and your thirst quenched.

**Leader & People: Thanks be to God who provides for our needs.**

### Unison Opening Prayer

God of hope and peace, you are with us in all our days and in all our ways. As Jesus walked through Jerusalem, healing the sick and those afflicted, your love was made abundantly clear through acts of love and mercy. Be with us this day as we gather to hear your word. Inspire and encourage us in all that we do, that we may serve you faithfully, bringing hope and your message of love to your thirsting world. In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN.

### \*Opening Hymn

*\*O God Our Help in Ages Past*

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### New Testament Reading

Philippians 2:1-13 The Message

Jeff Langill

If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep- spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

### Offering

Call to the Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology

*Here I come To Worship*

Hughes

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

\*stand as you are able

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## Joys and Concerns

### Pastoral Prater

### The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

**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.**

### Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

Linda Ladd

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

### Message

"By the Authority of the Heart"

Rev. Tom Bentley

### Anthem

*You Are The Bread*

Schram

### Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Words of Institution

Giving of the Bread

Giving of the Cup

### Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ.

Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world, in courage and peace,

rejoicing, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### \*Closing Hymn

\*Take My Life, God, Let it Be

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### Blessing and Benediction

### Postlude

*Offertoire*

*Wedeman*

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