

**Our Ushers today are Margaret Waugh and Bob MacKendrick.**

**The flowers on the altar are given by Barbara & Jeff Langill  
in memory of their parents, Henry & Jean Langill  
and Alfred & Lorena McKinstry.**

**Please join us after worship for coffee hour in the Narthex.  
hosted by Linda Ladd and Social And Environmental Ministry.**



**Worship Notes.**

**Music licenses:** One License with license #A-733437,  
and CCLI License #A-2267261 and Streaming  
#CSPL169342, Size A



**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

Rev Thomas Bentley, Pastor  
Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director  
Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School



**“Dealing with the Unclean Spirits”**

*Rev. Thomas Bentley*

**CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

United Church of Christ  
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

**January 28, 2024**

**10:00 am**

**Prelude**

**Communion**

**Handel**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship (from Deuteronomy 8)**

**Randy Russell**

Leader: Where have all the prophets gone?

**People: They are all around us, sitting here in our midst.**

Leader: What have they to teach us?

**People: They teach us God's ways, as they have always done.**

Leader: In whose name do they speak?

**People: They speak in God's name, and in the name of Jesus Christ.**

Leader: How will we know if they speak the truth?

**Leader & People: The Spirit will lead us into truth, as it has always been.**

**Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**Randy Russell**

**God of power and might, you sent prophets to your people, calling us back to your covenant, and teaching us your ways. In the fullness of time, you sent us your Son Jesus, teaching with such authority, that our eyes were opened to see your ways anew. Open our hearts and minds, that we may understand and proclaim your teachings for all to hear.**

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

**"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"**

**#459**

**Old Testament Reading**

**Randy Russell**

**Psalm 111**

***The Message***

**Hallelujah! I give thanks to God with everything I've got— Wherever good people gather, and in the congregation. God's works are so great, worth a lifetime of study—endless enjoyment! Splendor and beauty mark his craft; His generosity never gives out.**

**His miracles are his memorial—This God of Grace, this God of Love.**

**He gave food to those who fear him, He remembered to keep his ancient promise.**



# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

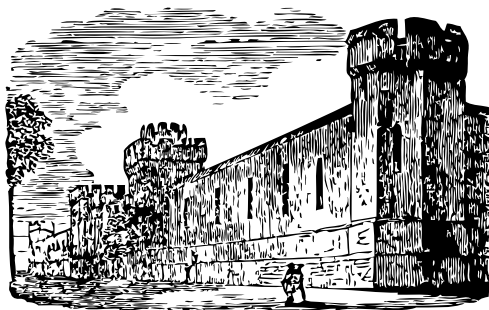
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1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
a bulwark never failing;  
our present help amid the flood  
of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
does seek to work us woe;  
with craft and power great,  
and armed with cruel hate,  
on earth is not his equal.

3 And though this world with devils  
filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God has willed  
the truth to triumph through us.  
The powers of evil grim,  
we tremble not for them;  
their rage we can endure,  
for lo! their doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell him.

2 Did we in our own strength confide,  
our striving would be losing,  
But there is one who takes our side,  
the One of God's own choosing.  
You ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, sets us free!  
With mighty power to save,  
victorious o'er the grave,  
Christ will prevail triumphant.

4 That word above all earthly powers  
forever is abiding;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours,  
for Christ is with us siding.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill:  
God's truth shall triumph still;  
god's reign endures forever!



He proved to his people that he could do what he said: Hand them the nations on a platter—a gift! He manufactures truth and justice; All his products are guaranteed to last— Never out-of-date, never obsolete, rust-proof. All that he makes and does is honest and true: He paid the ransom for his people, He ordered his Covenant kept forever. He's so personal and holy, worthy of our respect.

The good life begins in the fear of God— Do that and you'll know the blessing of God.

His Hallelujah lasts forever!

## Children's Time

## Green Wagon Blessing

This month we collected household essentials for families exiting shelter to permanent housing through Citizen's Inn

*Children age 4-12 are invited to join us for the Kid's Classroom.*

## Call to Offering

### Offertory

*Peace I Leave With You, My Friend*

Repp

### \*Hymn of Praise

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Living God, who we adore.

## Prayer of Dedication

## Joys and Concerns

## Pastoral Prayer

## 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.

Then they entered Capernaum. When the Sabbath arrived, Jesus lost no time in getting to the meeting place. He spent the day there teaching. They were surprised at his teaching—so forthright, so confident—not quibbling and quoting like the religion scholars.

Suddenly, while still in the meeting place, he was interrupted by a man who was deeply disturbed and yelling out, “What business do you have here with us, Jesus? Nazarene! I know what you’re up to! You’re the Holy One of God, and you’ve come to destroy us!”

Jesus shut him up: “Quiet! Get out of him!” The afflicting spirit threw the man into spasms, protesting loudly—and got out.

Everyone there was incredulous, buzzing with curiosity. “What’s going on here? A new teaching that does what it says? He shuts up defiling, demonic spirits and sends them packing!” News of this traveled fast and was soon all over Galilee.

Message: “Dealing with the Unclean Spirits”

Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Hymn

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

#439

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude

*Postlude Fugue*

Pachelbel

Come, O Fount of every blessing;  
tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it,  
mount of God’s unfailing love!

2 Here I pause in my sojourning,  
giving thanks for having come,  
come to trust, at every turning,  
God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God;  
Came to rescue me from danger,  
blessed body, precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it,  
wander from the love I’ve known;  
Here’s my heart; O take and seal it;  
seal it for your very own.