



Thank you to our youth who assembled New Home gifts to accompany the supplies we gathered during January. These are for families moving from shelter to permanent housing through Citizen's Inn.



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### Worship Notes.

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

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#### **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



## “In on the Mystery”

*Rev. Thomas Bentley*

### **CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

United Church of Christ  
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

**February 4, 2024**

**10:00 am**

Prelude **Voluntary** Hawdon

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship** **Phil Fisher**

Leader: There is, under the mystery that is 'us', a deep, abiding sense of oneness.

**People:** As we gather and celebrate today, may we be filled with an awareness of that oneness.

**Leader & People:** May it soak into and through the whole of our living.  
**AMEN**

**Opening Prayer (in unison)** *(from Isaiah 40)* **Phil Fisher**

Holy One, we come to you, listening for your word of compassion.  
Renew us with your strength. Empower us with your love.  
Guide us in your ways, that we may know you and worship you,  
our everlasting God.

**\*Opening Hymn** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" #1

**New Testament Reading** **Phil Fisher**  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23 *The Message*

Still, I want it made clear that I've never gotten anything out of this for myself, and that I'm not writing now to get something. I'd rather die than give anyone ammunition to discredit me or question my motives. If I proclaim the Message, it's not to get something out of it for myself. I'm *compelled* to do it, and doomed if I don't! If this was my own idea of just another way to make a living, I'd expect some pay. But since it's not my idea but something solemnly entrusted to me, why would I expect to get paid? So am I getting anything out of it? Yes, as a matter of fact: the pleasure of proclaiming the Message at no cost to you. You don't even have to pay my expenses.



Centre Church  
**Trivia Night**  
Saturday  
March 9  
at 6 PM  
With Silent Auction  
and Raffles  
Appetizers, Beverages, Pizza,  
Desserts, and Coffee  
Tickets  
\$20 each  
Team limit:  
8 People  
see you there!

## WORDS OF BLESSING

### HOLY COMMUNION

The pastor will offer instructions as how to receive the elements, and when to eat the bread and drink the unfermented wine .

### PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION (unison)

Almighty God, we give 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 and courage and peace rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Closing Hymn "Be Still My Soul" #488

Benediction Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude *Fanfare On An Original Theme* Martin



**Our ushers today are Annmarie Pendola, Kathi Martin,  
Margaret Waugh and Jeff Law.**

**Please join us in the Narthex for Coffee Hour which is hosted  
this morning by Barbara Horwood And Betsy Brown.**

Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be *in* on it!

### Children's Time

*Children age 4-12 are invited to join us for the Kid's Classroom. They will return to sit with their family for Communion.*

### Call to Offering

Offertory *Here I Am Lord* Schutte

### \*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

**Invitation to Silence** *(The pastor will say the following words which will be followed by a brief moment of silence)*

Now, in shared quietness, we shall listen to the wisdom of our inner hearts and minds as we join in this time of silence and meditation.

Silence

Let us give thanks for our personal journeys... sometimes long and hard journey...

Silence

**Let us seek forgiveness for times when our fears have outweighed our love...**

Silence

**Let us be mindful of the greed which so often rules us...**

Silence

**Let us remember, in silence... and wonder.**

Silence

### **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.**

**Anthem**

***Let Us Break Bread Together***

**Trad. Arr. Hurd**

#### **Gospel Reading**

**Mark 1:29-39**

**Directly on leaving the meeting place, they came to Simon and Andrew's house, accompanied by James and John. Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed, burning up with fever. They told Jesus. He went to her, took her hand, and raised her up. No sooner had the fever left than she was up fixing dinner for them.**

**That evening, after the sun was down, they brought sick and evil-afflicted people to him, the whole city lined up at his door! He cured their sick bodies and tormented spirits. Because the demons knew his true identity, he didn't let them say a word.**

**While it was still night, way before dawn, he got up and went out to a secluded spot and prayed. Simon and those with him went looking for him. They found him and said, "Everybody's looking for you."**

**Jesus said, "Let's go to the rest of the villages so I can preach there also. This is why I've come."**

**He went to their meeting places all through Galilee, preaching and throwing out the demons.**

**Message:**

**"In on the Mystery"**

**Rev. Tom Bentley**

#### **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

##### **Invitation**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)**

**Most loving and gracious God. Forgive our sins; those we commit knowingly and those we do without perception of how they hurt others. Open our hearts to your Holy Spirit to hear your truth, to understand our failure and to reach a new level of understanding. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Pastor: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new.**

**All: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven**

#### **COMMUNION PRAYER -**

**Pastor "...and so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise you name and join their unending hymn:**

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord. God of power and Might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes In the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

#### **WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE**

**Pastor: Let us unite in the words of remembrance...**

**All: We remember and give thanks for such love and Goodness, and mercy.**