

Introducing Rev. Marie Lucca

Rev. Marie graduated with honors from Harvard University with a focus on Soviet Studies and Boston University Law School. She spent 12 years as a maritime attorney and business executive on Wall Street and in Greenwich, CT before returning to Cambridge for divinity school. She was ordained in both the United Church of Christ and the Order of Universal Interfaith and served several traditional congregations before starting a coffee house church in Middleton, MA.

Besides substitute preaching, Rev. Marie currently officiates weddings and funerals, facilitates retreats and workshops for congregations, and creates rituals for house blessings, graduations, family reunions, retirements, and other life events through her ministry www.SacredMilestones.org.



Our ushers today are Steve Riley and Phil Fisher

Please join us in the Narthex for Coffee Hour which is hosted this morning by Annemarie Pendola.

The flowers on the altar are given by Margaret Waugh in loving memory of her parents, Lillian and Robert Cummings.



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
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



“There’s Power in the Pause”

Rev. Marie J. Lucca

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

February 25, 2024

10:00 am

Song of Preparation

Welcome & Announcements

Introducing Today's Theme

*Call to Worship

One: Everything that moves, now and then, here and there, stops to pause.

Many: The bird, as it flies, stops in one place to make its nest and in another to rest its wings.

One: In the same way, God has paused as well.

Many: The sun, which is so bright and beautiful, is one place where God has paused.

One: The moon, the stars, the winds — God has been there too.

Many: The trees, the animals — these are all places where God has stopped, leaving the touch of the Holy in all of these things.

One: We, too, have had God pause in us. We, too, have the Holy touch in our beings.

Many: Let us now pause ourselves, and listen for the voice of God in our hearts. Amen.

*Opening Hymn "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

#472

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Holy One, may this place be filled with your Spirit.

Gentle us into an unclenched moment,

A deep breath,

A letting go of heavy expectations,

A shriveling of anxieties.

An acceptance of life's uncertainties.

Surrounded by your light,

softened by your love,

and open to your mystery,

may we find ourselves entranced by the simple pleasures of life

and be filled with the joy that is You.

Amen.



Centre Church

Sign up in the Narthex today!

Saturday March 9 at 6 PM

Trivia Night

With Silent Auction and Raffles

Appetizers, Beverages, Pizza, Desserts, and Coffee

Tickets \$20 each

Team limit: 8 People

see you there!

Please be sure to get your payment in before the event if possible.

Checks can be made out to Centre Church, with "Trivia" in the memo line. Thank you.

“Amazing Grace”

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!**

**I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**T’was grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
‘tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**My God has promised good to me,
whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**

Surrounded by your light,
softened by your love,
and open to your mystery,
may we find ourselves entranced by the simple pleasures of life
and be filled with the joy that is You.

Offering

***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

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

Hebrew Bible Reading

1 Kings 11

The angel of the Lord told Elijah, “Go, stand on the mountain at attention before God. God will pass by.”

A hurricane wind ripped through the mountains and shattered the rocks before God, but God wasn’t to be found in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake, but God wasn’t in the earthquake. And after the earthquake came a fire, but God wasn’t in the fire. And after the fire, there was a gentle and quiet whisper.

When Elijah heard the quiet voice, he muffled his face with his great cloak, went to the mouth of the cave, and stood there. A quiet voice asked, "So Elijah, now tell me, what are you doing here?"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Mark 4: 35-40

As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." So they took Jesus in the boat and set off ... leaving the crowds behind. But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a pillow. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?" When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind & wave stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

This is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many: Praise to you O Lord.

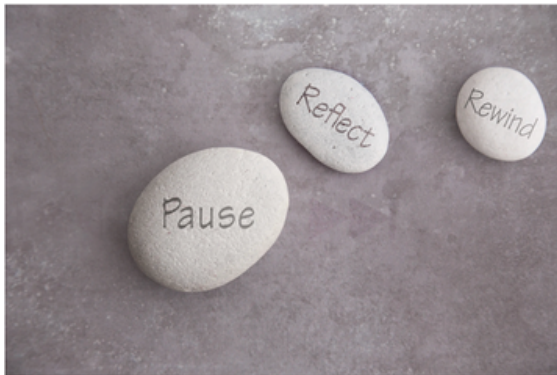
Message "There's Power in the Pause"

***Closing Hymn**

"Amazing Grace"

#547 Verses 1-4

***Benediction**



"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Precious Lord, take my hand

Lead me on, let me stand,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn:

Through the storm, through the night,

Lead me on to the light:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear,

precious Lord, linger near,

When my life is almost gone

Hear me cry, hear my call,

Hold my hand, lest I fall:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the shadows appear

And the night draws near,

And the day is past and gone,

At the river I stand,

Guide my feet, hold my hand:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.