

A photograph of several Easter baskets and colorful eggs on a blue background. One basket is filled with blue and green eggs, while others are scattered around it. The text is overlaid on the image.

Please come help assemble Easter baskets on Tuesday nights at 7pm, March 12 and 19.

Donations of baskets, grass, chocolate bunnies, plush animals and much more are needed to meet our goal of 1,000 baskets.

Contact the church office, Debbie Cotting or Barbara Langill for more information.

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



“Letting God Make You and Save You”

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

March 10, 2024 10:00 am

Prelude

“ Largo “

Corelli

Welcome and Announcements

(Children and youth, ages 4 and up, are invited to go directly to the kitchen where we will be baking muffins for coffee hour today)

Call to Worship

Leader: How awesome God’s light is!

People: It pours rays of comfort and hope into this dark world!

Leader: Come, dance and rejoice in the light!

People: Lord, let your light flood into our hearts and spirits!

Leader: Come, let us celebrate!

Leader & People: Let us bring our praise to God! AMEN.

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Jeanne Bentley

Lord, as we gather here, on this day of sharing, remind us that you have shared with us your most precious gift, our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to model our lives after his messages of compassion and service to you and to all your world. In Christ’s Name, we offer this prayer. AMEN.

Opening Hymn

“Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

#459

New Testament Reading

Jeanne Bentley

Ephesians 2:1-10

The Message

It wasn’t so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn’t know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It’s a wonder God didn’t lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us. Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah.

*Stand as you are able



The Lenten program, “Show Me The Way” is postponed and will be held at a later date.



The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Barbara and Ed Arsnow in memory of their parents.

Our ushers today are Margaret Waugh and Scott Barke.

Please join us in the Narthex for Coffee Hour and Muffins, baked for you by the children and youth.

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand” #472

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.

Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

Call to Offering

Offertory “I Will Trust in the Lord “ Arr. Smith

*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.

Anthem

“God So Loved The World”

Goss

Gospel Reading
John 3:14-21

Jeanne Bentley
The Message

“No one has ever gone up into the presence of God except the One who came down from that Presence, the Son of Man. In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life. “This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person’s failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him. “This is the crisis we’re in: God-light streamed into the world, but men and women everywhere ran for the darkness. They went for the darkness because they were not really interested in pleasing God. Everyone who makes a practice of doing evil, addicted to denial and illusion, hates God-light and won’t come near it, fearing a painful exposure. But anyone working and living in truth and reality welcomes God-light so the work can be seen for the God-work it is.”

Message: “Letting God Make You and Save You” Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Hymn: “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” #472

Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude “Sorbe” Rinck

1. 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. Oh, 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.