

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

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



"A New Covenant for a New Humanity"

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ 5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

March 17, 2024 10:00 am

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: God's mercy floods over us.

All: Lord, wash me clean of the pain in my life.

Leader: God's love pours into us.

All: Lord, pour your love into every pore of my being.

Leader: Let the love and mercy of God reign in your heart today. Leader and People: Be with me, Lord, and guide my life. AMEN.

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Scott Barke

Lord, be with us this day as we commit ourselves to being your disciples. Help us to face the future unafraid, trusting in your loving care and presence with us. We pray this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

Opening Hymn "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" #410

Old Testament Reading

Scott Barke

Jeremiah 31:27-34

The Message

"Be ready. The time's coming"— God's Decree — "when I will plant people and animals in Israel and Judah, just as a farmer plants seed. And in the same way that earlier I relentlessly pulled up and tore down, took apart and demolished, so now I am sticking with them as they start over, building and planting.

"When that time comes you won't hear the old proverb anymore, Parents ate the green apples, their children got the stomachache.

"No, each person will pay for his own sin. You eat green apples, you're the one who gets sick.





The flowers on the altar this morning are given in loving memory of Al & Judy Johnsons's parents, Gingy & Dotty Johnson and Chris Harding.

Our ushers today are Steve Riley and Jim Wilkie.

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

"O God Our Help in Ages Past" p. 25

1 Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame, From everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away; We fly forgotten, as a dream fades at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, Still be our God while troubles last, and our eternal home! "That's right. The time is coming when I will make a brand-new covenant with Israel and Judah. It won't be a repeat of the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant even though I did my part as their Master." God's Decree.

"This is the brand-new covenant that I will make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law within them— write it on their hearts! — and be their God. And they will be my people. They will no longer go around setting up schools to teach each other about God. They'll know me firsthand, the dull and the bright, the smart and the slow. I'll wipe the slate clean for each of them. I'll forget they ever sinned!" God's Decree.

Call to Offering

Offertory "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

Kirk

*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.

Gospel Reading John 12:20-26 Scott Barke
The Message

There were some Greeks in town who had come up to worship at the Feast. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee: "Sir, we want to see Jesus. Can you help us?"

Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew and Philip together told Jesus. Jesus answered, "Time's up. The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

"Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal.

"If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me.

Message: "A New Covenant for a New Humanity"

Closing Hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

#25

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude

"Fugue"

Rembt

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

1.If you but trust in God to guide you,
with hopeful heart through all your ways,
you will find strength, with God beside you,
to bear the worst of evil days;
For those who trust God's changeless love
build on the rock that will not move.

- 2. Only be still, and wait God's pleasure in cheerful hope, with heart content trusting that grace which knows no measure will by unbounded Love be sent;

 Nor doubt our inmost wants are clear to One who holds us always near.
- 3. Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving; offer your service faithfully, and trust God's word; though undeserving, there find the truth to set you free; God will not fail to guide and bless those who embrace God's faithfulness.