



The Nursey is staffed and open each Sunday for infants and children 0-4 years old. Children ages 4 to 12 years are invited to join us in the Kid's Classroom after Children's Time. Children will return to sit with their families for communion.



We are happy to welcome Noel Smith this morning as our guest musician. We are grateful she is able to share her musical gifts with us.

Our ushers today are Kathi Martin, Annmarie Pendola, Margaret Waugh and Phil Fisher.

Please join us in the Narthex for Coffee Hour which is hosted today by Linda Ladd and Jeff & Barbara Langill

Be sure to pick up your Stewardship Packet today after the worship service. They will be in alphabetical order in the Narthex.



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



Envisioning a Future of New Possibilities

“Hearts to god and Hands to Work”

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

Communion Sunday
April 7, 2024 10:00 am

Prelude “Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King” Thomas Miller

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Jim Marshall

Leader: We climbed the hill to Calvary.

The dark and foreboding skies dominated the scene

People: Then when all seemed lost the good news came to us.

Leader: Now we live for Jesus, serving others in his name.

Leader & People: Our hearts ring with the song of love for our Savior. May our lives be a testimony to all that He has taught us. AMEN.

Opening Prayer (*in unison*) Jim Marshall

God of the resurrection, we gather this morning as a community of believers. We come with joy to greet one another and to tell again and again the amazing news: Christ is risen! Love is victorious over death! You have given us new life in the name of your Son! May our singing, praying, listening, and proclaiming be a testimony to the power of your love to make us a new creation as a community of faith. We pray in the name of the risen Christ. Amen

Opening Hymn “The Strife is O’er” #242

New Testament Reading Jim Marshall
Acts 4:32-38 *The Message*

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

In the Bulb There is a Flower # 433

1. In the bulb there is a flower,
in the seed, an apple tree,
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

2. There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

3. In our end is our beginning,
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing,
in our life, eternity,
in our death, a resurrection,
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

“The Strife is O’er”

#242

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**1 The strife is o'er, the battle done,
the victory of life is won;
The song of triumph has begun.**

Alleluia!

**2 The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions has dispersed:
Let shouts of holy joy outburst.**

Alleluia!

**3 The three sad days are quickly sped,
Christ rises glorious from the dead:**

All glory to our risen Head!

Alleluia!

**4 Christ, by your wounds on Calvary
from death's dread sting your servants free,
That we may live eternally.**

Alleluia!

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

Children’s Time

Children will head to the Kid’s classroom and return to sit with their families for communion.

***Hymn**

“In The Bulb There is a Flower”

#433

Call to Offering

Offertory

“Just as I am”

Norman

***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

“Everyone Needs a Little”

Kari Jobe

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

Jim Marshall

The Message

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.” Then he showed them his hands and side.

The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were awestruck. Jesus repeated his greeting: “Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you.”

Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. “Receive the Holy Spirit,” he said. “If you forgive someone’s sins, they’re gone for good. If you don’t forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?”

But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We saw the Master.”

But he said, “Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won’t believe it.”

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.”

Then he focused his attention on Thomas. “Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.”

Thomas said, “My Master! My God!”

Jesus said, “So, you believe because you’ve seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing.”

Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.

Message: “Hearts to God and Hands to Work” Rev. Tom Bentley

Sacrament of Holy Communion

INVITATION Rev. Tom Bentley

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 - Rev. Tom Bentley

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

Let us unite in the words of remembrance...

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

WORDS OF BLESSING

HOLY COMMUNION

The pastor will offer instructions as how to receive the elements.

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 with courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Closing Song: “Tis A Gift to Be Simple” (*insert*)

Benediction Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude “Come People of the Risen King” Getty and Townend