

The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Karen Nascembeni in loving memory of her husband, Steven Richard.

Our ushers today are David Bjorkman and Jim Wilkie.

Please join us in the Narthex for Fellowship and Refreshments.
Hosted by the Linda Ladd and Social & Environmental Ministry.



Be sure to stop by the S & E table and pick up environmentally friendly laundry detergent sheets, dishwasher tablets, toilet bowl cleaner, shampoo & hand soap.
Make everyday Earth Day!

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



“Open-eyed in the Moment of Recognition”

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts
April 21, 2024 10:00 am

Prelude "Allegretto" Mendelssohn

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Randy Russell

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

People: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Leader & People: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Opening Prayer (*in unison*) Randy Russell

O Lord God - our hearts and our minds sing out to you with praise this day. We rejoice in the power that you have unleashed upon the world with the resurrection of Jesus. We thank you for the abiding love that you have bestowed upon us in the promises you have made to him and through him. We come before you, O God, as his servants. We come before you as a resurrection community - as an Easter people - and we ask your holy and transforming presence. Bless us at this hour that we may become what you would have us be and that we might bring honor and glory unto your name and unto the name of Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen

Opening Hymn "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" #173

God Be With You Til We Meet Again #81

**1 God be with you till we meet again;
By good counsel guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain:

**Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**2 God be with you till we meet again;
Wings of shelter safely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]**

**3 God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put unfailing arms around you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]**

**4 God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again. [Refrain]**

You Have Come down to the Lakeshore p.#173

***You have come down to the lakeshore
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
But only asking for me to follow.***

***Refrain: Jesus, you have looked into my eyes,
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
Now with you, I will seek other seas.***

***You know full well my possessions.
Neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
Just these my fishnets and will for working. Refrain***

***You need my hands, my exhaustion,
Working love for the rest of the weary,
A love that's willing to go on loving. Refrain***

***You who have fished other waters;
You, the longing of souls that are yearning;
As loving Friend, you have come to call me. Refrain***

New Testament Reading
1 John 3:1-6

Randy Russell
The Message

What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are. But that's also why the world doesn't recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who he is or what he's up to.

But friends, that's exactly who we are: children of God. And that's only the beginning. Who knows how we'll end up! What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we'll see him—and in seeing him, become like him. All of us who look forward to his Coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus' life as a model for our own.

All who indulge in a sinful life are dangerously lawless, for sin is a major disruption of God's order. Surely you know that Christ showed up in order to get rid of sin. There is no sin in him, and sin is not part of his program. No one who lives deeply in Christ makes a practice of sin. None of those who do practice sin have taken a good look at Christ. They've got him all backward.

Children's Time

Children ages 3 and up are invited to join us for the Kid's Classroom.

Call to Offering

Offertory

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

*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 "When Peace, Like A River"

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-35 (The Road to Emmaus)

That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. But they were not able to recognize who he was.

He asked, "What's this you're discussing so intently as you walk along?" They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend. Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what's happened during the last few days?"

He said, "What has happened?" They said, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people. Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him. And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened. But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb and couldn't find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn't see Jesus."

Then he said to them, "So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can't you simply believe all that the prophets said? Don't you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?" Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him.

They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on but they pressed him: "Stay and have supper with us. It's nearly evening; the day is done." So he went in with them. And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared.

Back and forth they talked. "Didn't we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?"

They didn't waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together, talking away: "It's really happened! The Master has been raised up— Simon saw him!"

1Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

Message: "Open-eyed in the Moment of Recognition" Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Hymn "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again" #81

Everyone is invited to hold hands as we sing together. If you prefer not to, offer instead the blessing of Namaste to your neighbors with palms together in greeting.

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude

"Offertoire"

Charpentier