



THE GREAT PIE CHALLENGE SUNDAY, MAY 5TH



Pull out your pie recipes, it's time for the Great Pie Challenge! This year the Great Pie Challenge will be held on Sunday, May 5th after the Service. Pies can be dropped off that morning. Signup sheets are in the Narthex or contact Annmarie Pendola (617-549-9164).



**Our annual Flea Market will be held
Saturday May 18th 9 AM to 1 PM**

**Your donations are needed to make this event a success.
Contact Chuck Cotting for more information.**

The event will be held on the church front lawn. If we have inclement weather, we will be inside in Richards Hall.

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
Bella Travaglini, Administrative Assistant



“There is no room in love for fear”

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts
April 28, 2024 10:00 am

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (John 15)

Kathi Martin

Leader: Come to the vineyard of God.

People: We seek Christ, the vine of great love.

Leader: Drink from the waters of life.

People: We live in the light of God's grace.

Leader: Come to the vineyard of God.

Leader & People: All are welcome here.

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Kathi Martin

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace.

Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life.

Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days. Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love.

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#43

New Testament Reading

Kathi Martin

1 John 4: 17-21

The Message

God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.

We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

#290

**1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as you art,
And make me love you as I ought to love.**

**2 I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
No sudden rending of the veil of clay,
No angel visitant, no opening skies;
But take the dimness of my soul away.**

**3. Have you not bid us love you every way?
all, all your own; soul, heart and strength and mind.
I see your cross—there teach my heart to stay:
O let me seek you, and O let me find.**

**4 Teach me to feel that you are always nigh;
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.**

**5 Teach me to love you as your angels love,
One holy passion filling all my frame;
The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove,
My heart an altar, and your love the flame.**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” #43

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, on earth be found.
Fix in us a humble dwelling,
All your faithful mercies crown;
Jesus! you are all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love impart.
Visit us with your salvation,
Enter every trembling heart!

2 Breathe! O breathe your loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in you inherit,
Let us find your promised rest;
Take away our love of sinning,
Alpha and Omega be,
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come! Almighty to deliver,
Let us all your life receive!
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more your temples leave!
You we would be always blessing,
Love you as your angels love,
Pray, and praise for your unfailing,
wounded arms outstretched above.

4 Finish then, your new creation,
Pure, and spotless may we prove;
Let us see your great salvation,
Perfectly restored in you;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

If anyone boasts, “I love God,” and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won’t love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can’t see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You’ve got to love both.

Children’s Time

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

Call to Offering

Offertory

“God Will Take Care of You”

Pat Hanson

***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 for the Offering

and for the Stewardship Gifts Received

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 "Take the Name of Jesus with You" Pat Hanson

Gospel Reading Kathi Martin
John 15:1-8 *The Message*

"I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

"Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

"I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

Message: "There is No Room in Love for Fear" Rev. Tom Bentley

Closing Hymn: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" #290

Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude

The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Joseph Tringale and Steven Votta in memory of Joseph's grandmother, Carol Adams, on the ninth anniversary of her passing on April 8, 2015.

Our ushers today are Stephen Riley and Scott Barke.



Please join us downstairs for coffee hour and a light lunch after worship as we celebrate the results of our Stewardship Campaign.

We will also spend some time looking into our present and future journey as a family of faith. We will take a look at how "Time in the Wilderness" is God's way of inviting us to a deeper faith that can help guide us individually and as a people who seek to follow Jesus.



We're excited to welcome Bella Travaglini who joins us as our new Administrative Assistant. She will be in the church office Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 2 pm. Please stop by and say hello. We look forward to continuing the journey together with Bella as part of the team. Below is a short introduction from Bella to her new friends at Centre Church:

My husband and I moved to West Peabody 35 years ago with our two sons. Our youngest attended Tower Day School for two years in the early 1990s and we have very fond memories of his time there.

I am grateful to be chosen as the new Centre Church administrative assistant. The Centre Church and Tower Day communities have made me feel very welcome. I look forward to working with all of you. Thank you. Bella