



## Guest Speaker Gladys Vega

Join us on Sunday, June 9th at 10:00 a.m. as we welcome our guest speaker Gladys Vega, executive director of La Colaborativa in Chelsea. Centre Church has partnered with this organization and this year we were able to donate over 1,000 Easter Baskets for children of the Chelsea community. Please come hear directly from Gladys the goals of this group and how we can lend our support. Following Worship, enjoy an ice cream social where you will have a chance to talk directly with Gladys.

We will be collecting diapers and baby wipes to be donated to La Colaborativa. Please Bring your diapers to Church through Sunday, June 9th.



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### Worship Notes.

**Music licenses:** One License with license #A-733437, and CCLI License #A-2267261 and Streaming #CSPL169342, Size A

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### CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ  
5 Summer St. Lynnfield MA 01940  
781-334-3050 [www.Centre-Church.org](http://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



**“It’s Not Who You Are -  
But Whose You Are”**

*Rev. Thomas Bentley*

## CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

**Communion Sunday**

**June 2, 2024 10:00 am**

**Welcome and Announcements****Call to Worship**

Jeannie Bentley

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made!

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Leader: This is a day of new beginnings!

**People: This is a time for growing into new disciples for Jesus.**

Leader: Come, let us prepare ourselves for worship

**Leader & People: Let us be prepared for service to God. AMEN.****Opening Prayer (in unison)**

Jeannie Bentley

Merciful One, when life beats us down, you reach out and restore us to health and wholeness. Surprise us once more, O God, with your never-failing grace and the light of your love. Amen.

**The Lord’s Prayer (in unison)**

Jeannie Bentley

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.

**Opening Hymn**

“Just as I Am”

#207

**New Testament Reading**

Jeannie Bentley

**2 Corinthians 4:5-12***The Message*

Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we’re proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you. It started when God said, “Light up the darkness!” and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful.

If you only look at us, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That’s to prevent anyone from confusing God’s incomparable

**1 I sing a song of the saints of God,  
Faithful their whole lives through.  
Who bravely labored, lived, and died  
For the God they loved and knew.  
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,  
And another a shepherd in pastures green:  
They were saints of God, if you know what I mean,  
God help me to be one too.**

**2 They loved their God and they lived that love.  
It was loving that made them strong;  
They did what was right, for Jesus' sake,  
Lived justly their whole lives long.  
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,  
And another was slain by a fierce wild beast;  
There is no earthly reason, none in the least,  
Why I shouldn't be one too.**

**3 They lived not only in ages past,  
There are hundreds of thousands still;  
The world is filled with living saints  
Who choose to do God’s will.  
You can meet them in school, on the road or at sea,  
In a church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea;  
For the saints are folk, like you and like me,  
And I mean to be one too.**

**“Just as I Am ”**

**#207**

**1 Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that your blood was shed for me,  
And that you called inviting me,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**2 Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**3 Just as I am, you will receive,  
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because your promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**4 Just as I am, your love unknown,  
has broken every barrier down;  
Now to be yours, and yours alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

power with us. As it is, there’s not much chance of that. You know for yourselves that we’re not much to look at. We’ve been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we’re not demoralized; we’re not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we’ve been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn’t left our side; we’ve been thrown down, but we haven’t broken. What they did to Jesus, they do to us—trial and torture, mockery and murder; what Jesus did among them, he does in us—he lives! Our lives are at constant risk for Jesus’ sake, which makes Jesus’ life all the more evident in us. While we’re going through the worst, you’re getting in on the best!

**Children’s Time**

*Children ages 3 and up are invited to join us for the Kid’s Classroom. The children will return to sit with their families for Communion.*

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory**

**“The Storm Is Passing Over”**

**Tindley**

**\*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**

**Prayer Response**

**Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Prayer Response (sung by the choir)**

**Anthem**

**“One Bread One Body”**

**Foley**

**Gospel Reading**

**Jeannie Bentley**

**Mark 2:23-3:6**

***The Message***

**One Sabbath day he was walking through a field of ripe grain. As his disciples made a path, they pulled off heads of grain. The Pharisees told on them to Jesus: “Look, your disciples are breaking Sabbath rules!”**

Jesus said, “Really? Haven’t you ever read what David did when he was hungry, along with those who were with him? How he entered the sanctuary and ate fresh bread off the altar, with the Chief Priest Abiathar right there watching—holy bread that no one but priests were allowed to eat—and handed it out to his companions?” Then Jesus said, “The Sabbath was made to serve us; we weren’t made to serve the Sabbath. The Son of Man is no yes-man to the Sabbath. He’s in charge!”

Then he went back in the meeting place where he found a man with a crippled hand. The Pharisees had their eyes on Jesus to see if he would heal him, hoping to catch him in a Sabbath violation. He said to the man with the crippled hand, “Stand here where we can see you.”

Then he spoke to the people: “What kind of action suits the Sabbath best? Doing good or doing evil? Helping people or leaving them helpless?” No one said a word.

He looked them in the eye, one after another, angry now, furious at their hard-nosed religion. He said to the man, “Hold out your hand.” He held it out—it was as good as new! The Pharisees got out as fast as they could, sputtering about how they would join forces with Herod’s followers and ruin him.

Message: “It not Who You Are - But Whose You Are”

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### INVITATION

#### 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.**

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

Pastor: 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, and when to eat the bread and drink the unfermented wine.

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

Closing Hymn: “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God” #295

Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude “A Joyous Acclamation” Smith

*Following the Postlude, please stay for the short Special Meeting of the Congregation for presentation and approval of the 2024 - 2025 Temporary Operating Budget.*

Our ushers today are Annmarie Pendola, Margaret Waugh, Raden Sorli Hawk, and Phil Fisher.

Please join us for Coffee Hour hosted by Nancy Lauzon.