

towns people went out on foot, running, and got there ahead of them. When Jesus arrived, he saw this huge crowd. At the sight of them, his heart broke—like sheep with no shepherd they were. He went right to work teaching them.

They beached the boat at Gennesaret and tied up at the landing. As soon as they got out of the boat, word got around fast. People ran this way and that, bringing their sick on stretchers to where they heard he was. Wherever he went, village or town or country crossroads, they brought their sick to the marketplace and begged him to let them touch the edge of his coat—that's all. And whoever touched him became well.

Message: "Open or Closed?"

***Hymn Request**

Benediction

Our ushers today are Stephen Riley and Raden Sorli Hawk.
Please join us for Coffee Hour hosted by Laurel & Peter Caputo.



Children of all ages are welcomed to Room 14 this summer during the Worship Service for supervised child care with Christine Marshall.

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



“Open or Closed?”

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

July 14, 2024 10:00 am

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Katherine Decker

Leader: Come! Listen to the word of the Lord!

People: Help us to receive God's word and direction for our lives.

Leader: Proclaim the goodness of God's love!

People: Let our voices and our actions be filled with love. Leader: Come, now is the time to worship.

Leader and People: Open our eyes, our hearts and our spirits this day, Lord.

Opening Prayer (*in unison*)

Katherine Decker

Lord, we come into your presence this morning with the busy schedules of summer activities crowding our lives. Our souls need to be fed and yet we seem powerless to find nurture and feeding that will sustain us. Open our ears, our eyes, and our hearts this day to hear your words of hope and healing for us. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

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

*Opening Hymn

"Jesus Loves Me"

#327

Sacrament of Infant Baptism (see insert)

New Testament Reading

Katherine Decker

Ephesians 2:16-22

The Message

Christ brought us together through his death on the cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility. Christ came and preached peace to you outsiders and peace to us insiders. He treated us as equals, and so made us equals. Through him we both share the same Spirit and have equal access to the Father.

*Stand as you are able

That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

Call to Offering

*"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 (Together)

Receive these gifts, O God, from our hands to your heart. We give them in thanks for our many blessings. Amen

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

*Hymn Request

Gospel Reading

Katherine Decker

Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56

The Message

The apostles then rendezvoused with Jesus and reported on all that they had done and taught. Jesus said, "Come off by yourselves; let's take a break and get a little rest." For there was constant coming and going. They didn't even have time to eat.

So they got in the boat and went off to a remote place by themselves. Someone saw them going and the word got around. From the surrounding