

Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” There was a nice carpet of green grass in this place. They sat down, about five thousand of them. Then Jesus took the bread and, having given thanks, gave it to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish. All ate as much as they wanted.

When the people had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples, “Gather the leftovers so nothing is wasted.” They went to work and filled twelve large baskets with leftovers from the five barley loaves.

The people realized that God was at work among them in what Jesus had just done. They said, “This is the Prophet for sure, God’s Prophet right here in Galilee!”

Message: “Inner Strength Through the Spirit”

\*Hymn Request

Benediction



Our ushers today are Jeff Langill and Bob MacKendrick.

Please join us for Coffee Hour which is hosted by  
Nina Emery and Roy Sorli.



Children of all ages are welcomed to Room 14 this summer during  
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](http://www.Centre-Church.org)  
We Welcome Everyone: An Open and Affirming Church

Rev Thomas Bentley, Pastor  
Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director  
Bella Travaglini, Church Administrative Assistant  
Leah O’Brien, Director of Tower Day School



## “Inner Strength Through the Spirit”

*Rev. Thomas Bentley*

### **CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

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

## Welcome & Announcements

### \*Call to Worship

Scott Barke

Leader: Waiting is never easy for us.

**All: We are a culture of “instant” response.**

Leader: Today, God is asking us to wait; to be patient.

**All: It is not going to be easy for us to do that.**

Leader: Quiet your spirits and open your hearts to God’s word for you today.

**All: Lord, be with us. Help us to be ready to hear and respond to your word.**

**AMEN.**

### Opening Prayer (*in unison*)

Scott Barke

God of our hopes and dreams, we are empty, and long to be filled;  
we are hungry, and long to be fed; we are lost, and long to be found.

Gather us into your love, and pick up the pieces of our lives -  
just as Jesus gathered up the fragments of the five loaves and two fish  
that remained after feeding the five thousand. Call us anew to eat our fill  
and to find our true nourishment in Jesus, the bread of heaven. 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: “When Peace, Like a River” (“It is Well with My Soul”) #438

### New Testament Reading

Scott Barke

Ephesians 3:14-20

*The Message*

My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent  
Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by  
his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will  
live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with  
both feet planted firmly on love, you’ll be able to take in with all followers  
of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ’s

love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the  
depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or  
guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us  
around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

### 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

#### Joys and Concerns

#### Pastoral Prayer

#### \*Hymn Request

### Gospel Reading

Scott Barke

John 6:1-14a

*The Message*

After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (some call it Tiberias). A  
huge crowd followed him, attracted by the miracles they had seen him do  
among the sick. When he got to the other side, he climbed a hill and sat  
down, surrounded by his disciples. It was nearly time for the Feast of  
Passover, kept annually by the Jews.

When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to  
Philip, “Where can we buy bread to feed these people?” He said this to  
stretch Philip’s faith. He already knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered, “Two hundred silver pieces wouldn’t be enough to buy  
bread for each person to get a piece.”

One of the disciples—it was Andrew, brother to Simon Peter—said,  
“There’s a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But  
that’s a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this.”