

Jesus said, “Don’t bicker among yourselves over me. You’re not in charge here. The Father who sent me is in charge. He draws people to me—that’s the only way you’ll ever come. Only then do I do my work, putting people together, setting them on their feet, ready for the End. This is what the prophets meant when they wrote, ‘And then they will all be personally taught by God.’ Anyone who has spent any time at all listening to the Father, really listening and therefore learning, comes to me to be taught personally—to see it with his own eyes, hear it with his own ears, from me, since I have it firsthand from the Father. No one has seen the Father except the One who has his Being alongside the Father—and you can see me.

“I’m telling you the most solemn and sober truth now: Whoever believes in me has real life, eternal life. I am the Bread of Life. Your ancestors ate the manna bread in the desert and died. But now here is Bread that truly comes down out of heaven. Anyone eating this Bread will not die, ever. I am the Bread—living Bread!—who came down out of heaven. Anyone who eats this Bread will live—and forever! The Bread that I present to the world so that it can eat and live is myself, this flesh-and-blood self.”

Message: “Choose Bread of Kindness”

*Hymn Request

Benediction



Our ushers today are David Bjorkman and Scott Barke.

Please join us for Coffee Hour which is hosted by
Annmarie Pendola.



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

Bella Travaglini, Church Administrative Assistant

Leah O’Brien, Director of Tower Day School



“Choose Bread of Kindness”

Jeffrey Langill

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

August 11, 2024 10:00 am

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship (from Psalm 34)**

Jeff Langill

Leader: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

All: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

Leader: O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

All: I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

Leader: This poor soul cried and was heard by the LORD and was saved from every trouble.

All: O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who seek and take refuge in him.

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Jeff Langill

All: Bread of life, you taught us to put away bitterness and anger, and with tenderhearted kindness to share the fruit of our labor with the needy.

Strengthen us by your grace, that in communion with you, we may forgive one another and live in love as Christ loved us. 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.

***Hymn Request**

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 4:25-5.2

What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.

Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry—but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life.

Did you use to make ends meet by stealing? Well, no more! Get an honest job so that you can help others who can't work.

Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift.

Don't grieve God. Don't break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don't take such a gift for granted.

Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.

Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

Call to Offering

Offertory

***Hymn of Praise (unison)**

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Living God, whom we adore.

Prayer of Dedication

Pastoral Prayer

Joys and Concerns

Gospel Reading

John 6.35, 41-51

Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life. The person who aligns with me hungers no more and thirsts no more, ever. I have told you this explicitly because even though you have seen me in action, you don't really believe me. Every person the Father gives me eventually comes running to me. And once that person is with me, I hold on and don't let go. I came down from heaven not to follow my own agenda but to accomplish the will of the One who sent me.

At this, because he said, "I am the Bread that came down from heaven," the Jews started arguing over him: "Isn't this the son of Joseph? Don't we know his father? Don't we know his mother? How can he now say, 'I came down out of heaven' and expect anyone to believe him?"