

with him. Then Jesus gave the Twelve their chance: “Do you also want to leave?”

Peter replied, “Master, to whom would we go? You have the words of real life, eternal life. We’ve already committed ourselves, confident that you are the Holy One of God.”

Message: “A Pathway to Spiritual Recovery”

*Closing Hymn (Hymn Request)

Benediction



Our ushers today are David Bjorkman and Scott Barke.

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



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



“A Pathway to Spiritual Recovery”

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts
August 25, 2024 10:00 am

Welcome & Announcements

***Call to Worship (*from Psalm 84*)**

Bob MacKendrick

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

People: our hearts heart and our souls sing for joy to the living God.

Leader: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young at the altars of God.

People: Happy are those who live in God's house, ever singing praise.

Leader and People: Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose hearts are the highway to Zion.

Opening Prayer (*The Prayer of Saint Francis in unison*)

Bob MacKendrick

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. 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**

"I Woke Up This Morning"

(see insert)

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 6:10-20

Bob MacKendrick

The Message

And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best

*Stand as you are able

materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no weekend war that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.

Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

Call to Offering

Offertory

***Hymn of Praise (unison)**

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

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

***Hymn Request**

Gospel Reading

John 6: 63-69

Bob MacKendrick

The Message

[Jesus said] "The Spirit can make life. Sheer muscle and willpower don't make anything happen. Every word I've spoken to you is a Spirit-word, and so it is life-making. But some of you are resisting, refusing to have any part in this." (Jesus knew from the start that some weren't going to risk themselves with him. He knew also who would betray him.) He went on to say, "This is why I told you earlier that no one is capable of coming to me on his own. You get to me only as a gift from the Father."

After this, many of his disciples left. They no longer wanted to be associated