

So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

They worship me in vain;
their teachings are merely human rules.’

You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

Message: “When to and When not to”

*Closing Hymn (Hymn Request)

Benediction



Our ushers today are Raden Sorli Hawk 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



“When to and When not to”

Rev. Thomas Bentley

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5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

September 1, 2024 10:00 am

Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship

Jeannie Bentley

Leader: God has given us this day for praise!

People: Praise be to God for this most generous gift!

Leader: God has given his Son to us that we might live in the ways of peace and mercy.

People: Let the words of God's own Son, Jesus, enter our hearts and transform our lives!

Leader: God calls us to hear the Word, change our lives, and ACT with love for the goals of Justice and Reconciliation.

People: Come, let us worship this great God of abundant mercy and love!

Leader & People: Let our songs, our words, and our actions reflect God's healing and restoring love. AMEN.

Opening Prayer (*The Serenity Prayer*)

Jeannie Bentley

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. 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

"Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God"

#287

New Testament Reading

James 1:16-25

The Message

Jeannie Bentley

So, my very dear friends, don't get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures.

Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up

*Stand as you are able

with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. God's righteousness doesn't grow from human anger. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life.

Don't fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like.

But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God—the free life!—even out of the corner of his eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a man or woman of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action.

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

Mark 7:1-8

Jeannie Bentley

New International Version

The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.