



Pull out your pie recipes, it's time for the Great Pie Challenge! This year the Great Pie Challenge will be held on Confirmation Sunday, May 21st, after worship. Pies can be dropped off that morning. Signup sheets will be in the Narthex starting April 16th or you can contact Annmarie Pendola (617-549-9164).

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

The Rev. Lori Anne Wyckoff, Senior Pastor
Larainne Wilson, Director of Faith Formation
Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director
Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School
Alison O'Connor, Church Administrator



Coming Out: Leaving Comfortable Places

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

April 16, 2023

10:00 am

WE GATHER

Prelude

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Arr Boyles

Welcome

Preparing for New Life

Larainne:: Safe in our cozy cocoons we wondered...

People: ...does anything really need to change?

While the world rushed on around us, we wondered...

...what if I'm just not ready for whatever comes next?

When our worldviews are painfully challenged by new information, we wonder...

...could this discomfort indicate an opportunity for growth?

Then the love of the Divine reminds us,

"You too are my child.

You can emerge to renewed life.

Again and again."

Amen.

Opening Hymn

**Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

#423

The Baptism of Sadie Gray

(see insert)

*stand as you are able



Take My Life, God, Let It Be

**1 Take my life, God, let it be
consecrated faithfully.**

**Take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**2 Take my spirit, let it move
at the impulse of your love.**

**Take my intellect and use
all its powers as you choose.**

**3 Take my will; your will be done!
Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace
make of it your dwelling place.**

**4 Take my love and help it grow;
let my loving overflow.
Take me now, and help me be
part of Christ's community.**



Great Is Your Faithfulness

**1 Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,
with you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;
all of your goodness forever will be.**

Refrain:

**Great is your faithfulness!
Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided,
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!**

**2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]**

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.[Refrain]**



Song of Preparation

Are Ye Able

**"Are ye able?" Still the [Savior]
whispers down eternity,
and heroic spirits answer,
"Now, as then, in Galilee."**

**Lord, we are able!
Our spirits are Thine.
Remold them, make us,
like Thee, divine.
Thy guiding radiance
above us shall be
a beacon to God,
to love, and loyalty.**

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3

Douglas Hodgkins

Anthem

I Am Just a Little Child

Artman

Sermon

"Things Unseen"

Rev. Lori Anne Wyckoff

WE PRAY Entering into Prayer

Open Me

Kirkland and McFee

Form me... hold me... open me... unfold me... unfurl me...
untether me... uncurl me... uncrease me... unwrap me...

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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.

THE OFFERING

Call to the Offering
Offertory *May The Road Rise Up To Meet You* Jolliffe
Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

WE EMERGE INTO NEW LIFE
Announcements

Closing Hymn

Take My Life, God, Let It Be #448

Blesssing and Benediction

Postlude

In Christ There is No East or West Hughes

The flowers on the altar this morning are given by the Foulds Family in loving memory of Arthur Foulds.

Our ushers this morning are George Hayden and Phil Fisher.

Our coffee fellowship hosts today are Annmarie Pendola and Nancy Lauzon.

Worship Notes

Liturgy: Marcia McFee © www.worshipdesignstudio.com/emerge. Used and adapted with permission.

Open Me by Rev. Elaine B. Kirkland with lyrics by Dr. Marcia McFee. This week it is sung by Elaine's wife Lisa Lally and friends. Used by permission. Elaine and Lisa are friends of Rev. Lori. They met on their trip to Ireland last fall.

Music licenses: One License with license #A-733437, and CCLI License #A-2267261 and Streaming #CSPL169342, Size A



There are copies of the new People Book (Centre Church Directory) available in the Narthex this morning.

Celebration of Baptism



Sadie Francis Gray
Daughter of Hayley and T.J. Gray

WORDS OF WELCOME

(responsively)

LEADER: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

PEOPLE: **There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God’s call to us. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, Creator of us all.**

LEADER: Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united with Jesus Christ, and given part in Christ’s ministry of reconciliation. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness and the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be Christ’s disciples always.

PEOPLE: **This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members in Christ’s body.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:13-16 (responsively)

LEADER: They were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them:

PEOPLE: **“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”**

LEADER: And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

PRESENTATION OF THE WATER FOR BAPTISM

William Gray

PROMISES OF THE PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

- Who brings this child for baptism? **Parents: We do.**
- Do you, Hayley and T.J., desire to have Sadie baptized into this Christian community? **We do.**
- Will you journey with Sadie to discover the wonder of God’s love? **We will.**
- Will you encourage Sadie to learn from the wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God? **We will.**

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- Will you encourage Sadie to learn from the wisdom of the prophets; doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God? **We will.**

- Will you foster for Sadie an appreciation for the life and teachings of Jesus? **We will.**
- Will you teach her to honor and explore the faith questions that come to her throughout her life and to respect others' journeys of meaning-making? **We will.**
- Will you participate regularly with Sadie in the worship, life, support, work, and mission of the church of Jesus Christ as it serves the community and the world? **We will.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

LEADER: As a sign of covenant with those baptized this day let us all join with those participating and with the church in all times and places in affirming our faith.

Do you believe in God the Source, the fountain of life? **I believe in God.**

Do you believe in Christ the Servant, embodied in Jesus of Nazareth and in the church? **I believe in Christ.**

Do you believe in the Spirit the Guide, the liberating wellspring of life? **I believe in the Spirit.**

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

(responsively)

LEADER: Jesus calls us to make disciples of others, and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. On behalf of the Christian Church in every place, do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support and care to Sadie as she lives and grows in Christ?

PEOPLE: We promise our love, support, and care.

BAPTISM OF SADIE FRANCIS GRAY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of wonder and grace, we thank you for your love revealed here this day as we in this community come together in covenant with Sadie, her parents Hayley and T.J., and her brother, William. We pray that this community will have the grace to uphold the promises made here this day, so that we may provide a safe shelter of your love in which Sadie may learn and grow. Give to Sadie, her parents, and brother strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

PRESENTATIONS AND WELCOME

People of God, let us welcome Sadie into our midst, named by God and called with us to be God's servant people. Go now in peace.

- Will you foster for Sadie an appreciation for the life and teachings of Jesus? **We will.**
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