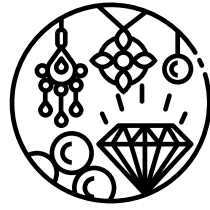


### Centre Church Holiday Craft Fair!

Volunteers are needed on Nov. 2nd to staff the kitchen, craft and bake tables, and the Festival of Trees Raffle. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or contact Debbie Cotting at [cottingfamily@comcast.net](mailto:cottingfamily@comcast.net)

We are also looking for jewelry donations for the Jewelry Table. A collection box will be in the Narthex on Sunday mornings and in the Church Office during the week.



### 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  
Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School  
Bella Travaglini, Administrative Assistant



## “God of the Soft-Hearted”

*Rev. Thomas Bentley*

### CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ  
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

**Communion Sunday**

**October 6, 2024**

**10:00 am**

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Jim Marshall

Leader: Praise be to God who has called us together.

People: We come here seeking healing and hope.

Leader: Open your hearts to God’s redeeming love.

People: Help us to hear your words, O Lord, and follow your ways.

Leader: AMEN.

Leader and People: AMEN.

Opening Prayer (*in unison*)

Jim Marshall

Lord, we come to you today with so many things on our hearts. You call us to be in relationship of trust and love with you and you offer healing to us for those portions of our lives that are broken and injured. Help us to be open to your mercy and healing love. For we ask this in Jesus’ Name.

AMEN.

The Lord’s Prayer (*in unison*)

Jim Marshall

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

“Dear God, Embracing Humankind”#502

Old Testament Reading

Jim Marshall

Psalm 8

NRSV

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are

1 O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in you;  
I give you back the life I owe, that  
in your ocean depths its flow may swell with ardor true.

2 O Light that follows all my way,  
to you I yield my flickering flame;  
Renew my spirit’s feeble ray, that  
from your brilliant sunlit day it may new brightness claim.

3 O Joy that seeks me through my pain,  
to you I cannot close my heart;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and  
know the promise is not vain that you will ne’er depart.

4 O Cross that raises up my head,  
from you I dare not seek to flee;  
Life’s glories wither and are dead, but  
from the ground there blossoms red, life that shall endless be.

“Dear God, Embracing Humankind” #502

1 Dear God, embracing humankind, forgive our foolish ways; Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives your service find, in deeper reverence, praise.

2 In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea, The gracious calling of your word, let us, like them, by spirit stirred, rise up and followers be.

3 O sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills, above! There Jesus met you prayerfully; the silence of eternity, interpreted by love.

4 Drop your still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of your peace.

5 Breath through the pulses of desire your coolness and your balm; Let sense be numb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?  
Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.  
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.  
O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Children’s Time  
*Children ages 4 and up are invited to join us for the Kid’s Classroom in Room 10 with Barbara Langill and Christine Marshall.*

Call to Offering

|           |                        |        |
|-----------|------------------------|--------|
| Offertory | “The Lord Be With You” | Sleeth |
|-----------|------------------------|--------|

\*Hymn of Praise *(in 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



|        |                          |      |
|--------|--------------------------|------|
| Anthem | “God So Loved the World” | ???? |
|--------|--------------------------|------|

**Gospel Reading**  
**Mark 10:2-16**

**Jim Marshall**  
*The Message*

From there he went to the area of Judea across the Jordan. A crowd of people, as was so often the case, went along, and he, as he so often did, taught them. Pharisees came up, intending to give him a hard time. They asked, “Is it legal for a man to divorce his wife?”

Jesus said, “What did Moses command?”

They answered, “Moses gave permission to fill out a certificate of dismissal and divorce her.”

Jesus said, “Moses wrote this command only as a concession to your hardhearted ways. In the original creation, God made male and female to be together. Because of this, a man leaves father and mother, and in marriage he becomes one flesh with a woman—no longer two individuals, but forming a new unity. Because God created this organic union of the two sexes, no one should desecrate his art by cutting them apart.”

When they were back home, the disciples brought it up again. Jesus gave it to them straight: “A man who divorces his wife so he can marry someone else commits adultery against her. And a woman who divorces her husband so she can marry someone else commits adultery.”

\* \* \*

The people brought children to Jesus, hoping he might touch them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus was irate and let them know it:

“Don’t push these children away. Don’t ever get between them and me. These children are at the very center of life in the kingdom.

Mark this: Unless you accept God’s kingdom in the simplicity of a child, you’ll never get in.” Then, gathering the children up in his arms, he laid his hands of blessing on them.

**Message:** “God of the Soft-Hearted”

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** *(see insert)*

**\*Closing Hymn** “O Love that Will Not Let Me Go” **#485**

**Benediction**

**Postlude** “Sorti” **Andre**



Our ushers today are  
David Bjorkman, Raden Sorli Hawk, Kathi Martin and Margaret Waugh.

Please join us for Coffee Hour hosted by  
Janet Everson and Nancy Lauzon.



The flowers on the altar today are given by  
Barbara and Ronald Horwood  
in memory of Barbara’s mother,  
Dorothy S. Morse.

