

### New Membership Orientation

The first orientation meeting for prospective new church members will be held after coffee hour on the Sundays of January 26th and February 2nd in the Pastor's Outer Office. Please call the church office at 781-334-3050 if you are interested in joining us.



### **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  
Christina Joly, Faith Formation Children's Program Coordinator  
Christine Marshall, Nursery Care Provider  
Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School  
Bella Travaglini, Administrative Assistant



**“Unexpected Gifts Here  
and Everywhere”**

*Rev. Thomas Bentley*

#### **CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

United Church of Christ  
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

**January 19, 2025**

**10:00 am**

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Joseph Tringale

Leader: No matter how far we wander from you, O God,

**People: your steadfast love finds us.**

Leader: No matter how unjust the world seems to us, O God,

**People: your steadfast righteousness sustains us.**

Leader: No matter how vulnerable our lives seem to us, O God,

**People: your steadfast presence gives us hope.**

Leader: No matter how unloved and uncared for we feel, O God,

**Leader & People: you hear our cries and answer our prayers.**

**Thanks be to God!**

Opening Prayer (*in unison*)

Joseph Tringale

Gracious and loving God, source of all wholeness, forgiveness, and mercy—may your Spirit heal those who are torn, mend those who are broken, and protect those who are fragile. Enable us, O God, through the gift of your steadfast love, to remember who we are and whose we are. In your love, may we be true and faithful disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer (*in unison*)

Joseph Tringale

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

“Rejoice, You Pure in Heart”

#55

New Testament Reading

Joseph Tringale

1 Corinthians 12:4-11  
*The Message*

God’s various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they

1 I sing a song of the saints of God,  
Faithful their whole lives through,  
who bravely labored, lived, and died  
for the God they loved and knew.  
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,  
And another a shepherdess in pastures green:  
they were saints of God, if you know what I mean,  
God help me to be one, too.

2 They loved their God and they lived that love.  
It was loving that made them strong.  
They did what was right, for Jesus’ sake,  
Justly their whole lives long.  
And one was a prophet, and one was a priest,  
And another was slain by a fierce wild beast:  
There is no earthly reason, none in the least,  
why I shouldn’t be one, too.

3 They lived not only in ages past;  
there are hundreds of thousands still;  
The world is filled with living saints  
who choose to do God’s will.  
You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea,  
in a church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea:  
for the saints are folk like you and me,  
and I mean to be one, too.

**“Rejoice, You Pure in Heart” #55**

**1 Rejoice, you pure in heart: lift praises to the sky;  
Your festal banner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!**

***Refrain:***

**Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.  
Rejoice Rejoice**

**2 Bright youth and seasoned age, strong souls and spirits meek,  
Raise high your free, exulting song. God’s wondrous praises  
speak.**

***Refrain***

**3 With voice as full and strong as ocean’s surging praise,  
Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of  
ancient days.**

***Refrain***

**4 Yes, on through life’s long path, still chanting as you go,  
From youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe:**

***Refrain***

**5 Praise God who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore,  
Praise God the Sprit, Holy Fire, one God for ever more!**

***Refrain***

all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful:

wise counsel  
clear understanding  
simple trust  
healing the sick  
miraculous acts  
proclamation  
distinguishing between spirits  
tongues  
Interpretation of tongues

**Children’s Time**

*Children will remain in worship today. The Nursery with Christine Marshall is open for children ages 4 and under.*

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory “He Never Failed Me Yet” Ray**

**\*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**



Gospel Reading  
Luke 2:1-11

Joseph Tringale  
*The Message*

Three days later there was a wedding in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were guests also. When they started running low on wine at the wedding banquet, Jesus' mother told him, "They're just about out of wine."

Jesus said, "Is that any of our business, Mother—yours or mine? This isn't my time. Don't push me."

She went ahead anyway, telling the servants, "Whatever he tells you, do it."

Six stoneware water pots were there, used by the Jews for ritual washings. Each held twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus ordered the servants, "Fill the pots with water." And they filled them to the brim.

"Now fill your pitchers and take them to the host," Jesus said, and they did.

When the host tasted the water that had become wine (he didn't know what had just happened but the servants, of course, knew), he called out to the bridegroom, "Everybody I know begins with their finest wines and after the guests have had their fill brings in the cheap stuff. But you've saved the best till now!"

This act in Cana of Galilee was the first sign Jesus gave, the first glimpse of his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Anthem "Soon and Very Soon" Arr. Crouch

Message: "Unexpected Gifts Here and Everywhere" Rev. Bentley

\*Closing Hymn "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" #295

Benediction

Postlude

"O Spread The Tidings Round"

Scriveyner

Our ushers today are  
Bill Seelig and Kathi Martin.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given by Jim and Lisa Wilkie in memory of Jim's mother, Ethel Jane Wilkie.

Please join us for Coffee Hour hosted by Betsy Brown and Barbara Horwood.



1st Meeting, Wednesday, January 29th - Pastor's Outer Office  
Centre Congregational Church Book Club

We will discuss Dr. Jamil Zaki's book, *Hope for Cynics: The Surprising Science of Human Goodness*. Cynicism is making us sick; Stanford Psychologist Zaki has the cure—a "ray of light for dark days." Reverend Tom Bentley and Randy Russell will guide this discussion. The Lynnfield Library will provide copies of the book to those who are interested. Contact the office at [office@centre-church.com](mailto:office@centre-church.com) or call 781-334-3050 to register.

