



Children ages 4 and up are invited to watch an Easter movie upstairs in our movie room, the “Holy Word Theater”. Children should come directly to the movie room before the worship service begins.

Easter Plants

We are offering red tulips, daffodils, kalanchoe and lilies this year. Cost is \$12/ea.



Deadline for orders is Friday, April 11th.
Order forms are available in the Narthex.



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



“Looking Inside Through the Eyes of Christ”

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

March 30, 2025

10:00 am

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship Jeanne Bentley
Leader: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.
People: For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.

Leader: Know that God’s love is lavished upon you forever.
People: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!
Leader & People: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.
AMEN!

Opening Prayer (*in unison*) Jeanne Bentley

How incredible is your love, O God! We have been made new in your love and reconciled to you and to each other in peace and joy. Be with us this day as we hear your words of comfort and hope. Guide our lives that we may serve you more fully all of our days. AMEN.

Anthem “Leave Me Lord” Blackwell

The Lord’s Prayer (*in unison*) Jeanne Bentley

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 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” #23

**1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your flood was shed for me,
And that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**2 Just as I am, though tossed about,
Without many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**3 Just as I am, you will receive,
Will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because your promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**4 Just as I am, your love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be yours, and yours alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”#23

1 There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
There’s a kindness in God’s justice,
which is more than liberty.
There’s no place where earthly sorrows
are more felt than in God’s heaven’
There’s no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgement given.

2 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our minds;
And the heart of the Eternal
s most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God’s word;
And our lives would show thanksgiving
for the goodness of our God.

New Testament Reading
2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Jeanne Bentley
The Message

Because of this decision we don’t evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don’t look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new.

The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We’re Christ’s representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God’s work of making things right between them. We’re speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he’s already a friend with you. How? you ask. In Christ. God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God.

Call to Offering

Offertory “Said Judas to Many” Carter

*Hymns 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

Then he said, “There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, ‘Father, I want right now what’s coming to me.’

“So the father divided the property between them. It wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to feel it. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn-cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

“That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father.

“When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’

“But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a prize-winning heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

“All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and

dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, ‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.’

“The older brother stomped off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn’t listen. The son said, ‘Look how many years I’ve stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on whores shows up and you go all out with a feast!’

“His father said, ‘Son, you don’t understand. You’re with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he’s alive! He was lost, and he’s found!’”

Message: “Looking Inside Through the Eyes of Christ”

*Closing Hymn “Just As I Am ” #207

Benediction Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude “Holy, Holy, Holy” Livingston

Our ushers today are
Jim Wilke and Phil Fisher.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given
by Barbara, Scott and Brent Barké
in memory of Paul T. Barké, Jr. (husband and father).

Please join us for Coffee Hour hosted by Kathi Martin