

*Closing Hymn “We Are Marching in the Light of God” #526

Benediction

Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude

Our ushers today are Kathi Martin, Raden Sorli Hawk,
Bill Seeling and David Bjorkman.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given
by Joseph Tringale and Steven Votta in memory of Joseph’s
grandmother, Carol Adams, on the 10th anniversary
of her passing on on April 8, 2015.



Children will be going directly to the kitchen to bake muffins, which will
be available for sale during coffee hour. This week, all
donations will benefit the Easter Basket Project.

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



“Seeing and Living the Invisible”

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

Communion Sunday

April 6, 2025

10:00 am

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Debbie Cotting

Leader: Break open our hearts this morning to hear your word, O God.

People: Let our fears be vanquished, our spirits restored!

Leader: Come and let us worship with great joy!

People: Let us drop the things of the past which weighed us down!

Leader: God is about to do something new!

Leader & People: Let God's will become strong in our lives. AMEN.

Opening Prayer (*in unison*)

Debbie Cotting

We come into your presence, O Lord, with so many burdens and concerns on our hearts. Help us to be open to your words of healing and restoration. Bring us closer to you. Enable us to discern your will for us that we may serve you more faithfully by serving others in need. In Christ's name, we pray. AMEN.

Anthem

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

Debbie Cotting

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 "What Wonderful Love is This"

#223

"We Are Marching in the Light of God"

#526

Please note: The choir will sing the first verse alone and then lead the congregation through the song. Also, unlike what is in the hymnal, there is an added second verse (We are living in the light of God). Then to finish everyone will repeat the first verse at the end.

We are marching in the light of God,

We are marching in the light of God.

(Repeat)

We are marching, marching,

We are marching, marching,

We are marching in the light of God.

(Repeat)

We are living in the love of God,

We are living in the love of God,

(Repeat)

We are living, living,

We are living, living,

We are living in the love of God,

(Repeat)

We are marching in the light of God,

We are marching in the light of God.

(Repeat)

We are marching, marching,

We are marching, marching,

We are marching in the light of God.

(Repeat)

“What Wonderous Love is This” #223

1 What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this that Christ should come in bliss
to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the heavy cross for my soul?

2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

3 And when from death I’m free I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on,
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
and through eternity I’ll sing on.

This is what God says,
the God who builds a road right through the ocean,
who carves a path through pounding waves,
The God who summons horses and chariots and armies—
they lie down and then can’t get up;
they’re snuffed out like so many candles:
“Forget about what’s happened;
don’t keep going over old history.
Be alert, be present. I’m about to do something brand-new.
It’s bursting out! Don’t you see it?
There it is! I’m making a road through the desert,
rivers in the badlands.
Wild animals will say ‘Thank you!’
—the coyotes and the buzzards—
Because I provided water in the desert,
rivers through the sunbaked earth,
Drinking water for the people I chose,
the people I made especially for myself,
a people custom-made to praise me.

Call to Offering

Offertory

*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

Gospel Reading
John 12:1-11

Debbie Cotting
The Message

Six days before Passover, Jesus entered Bethany where Lazarus, so recently raised from the dead, was living. Lazarus and his sisters invited Jesus to dinner at their home. Martha served. Lazarus was one of those sitting at the table with them. Mary came in with a jar of very expensive aromatic oils, anointed and massaged Jesus’ feet, and then wiped them with her hair. The fragrance of the oils filled the house.

Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, even then getting ready to betray him, said, “Why wasn’t this oil sold and the money given to the poor? It would have easily brought three hundred silver pieces.” He said this not because he cared two cents about the poor but because he was a thief. He was in charge of their common funds, but also embezzled them.

Jesus said, “Let her alone. She’s anticipating and honoring the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you. You don’t always have me.”

Word got out among the Jews that he was back in town. The people came to take a look, not only at Jesus but also at Lazarus, who had been raised from the dead. So the high priests plotted to kill Lazarus because so many of the Jews were going over and believing in Jesus on account of him.

Message: “Seeing and Living the Invisible” Rev. Tom Bentley

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Most loving and gracious God. Forgive our sins; those we commit knowingly and those we do without perception of how they hurt others.

Open our hearts to your Holy Spirit to hear your truth, to understand our failure and to reach a new level of understanding. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Pastor: “... and so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord. God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Pastor: Let us unite in the words of remembrance...

All: We remember and give thanks for such love and Goodness and mercy.

WORDS OF BLESSING

HOLY COMMUNION

The pastor will offer instructions as how to receive the elements, and when to eat the bread and drink the unfermented wine.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION *(in unison)*

Almighty God, we give thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world with courage and peace rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen