

Message: "A Call That's Custom Made"

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Closing Hymn "Come My Way, My Truth, My Life" #331

Benediction Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude



Our ushers today are Bill Seelig, Jim Wilkie,
David Bjorkman and Scott Barké.



The flowers on the altar this morning are in memory of our very much
loved and missed dad and husband, Tony Lucia.



Please join us today after Worship for
The Great Pie Challenge and coffee!

Worship Notes.

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CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
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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



"A Call That's Custom Made"

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

Communion Sunday

May 4, 2025

10:00 am

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Debbie Cotting

Leader: Christ asked Peter if he loved him.

People: Peter affirmed three times his love of the Lord.

Leader: Christ asks us if we love him.

People: O Divine One help us to live our love through you.

Leader: Christ calls us to demonstrate our love in service.

People: Jesus calls us to serve because of his love for us.

Leader & People: Lord, help us to witness to your love in the ways in which we care for others. AMEN

Opening Prayer *(unison)*

Debbie Cotting

God of power and might, let your love shine on us and through us to others. Take the blindness from our eyes and our hearts. Give us the joy of knowing and serving you in all that we say, think and do. In Jesus' Name, we pray.

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

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

#252

Children's Time

Following Children's Time, children ages 4 and up are invited to join us for Kid's Classroom in Room 10. The children will return to sit with their families for Communion.

New Testament Reading

Acts 9:1-19

Debbie Cotting

The Message

"Come My Way, My Truth, My Life" #331

1 Come, my way, my truth, my life:
such a way as gives us breath;
such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as conquers death.

2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length;
such a strength as makes his guest.

3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart:
such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

**1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need your tender care;
In your pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use your folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
You have bought us, yours we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
You have bought us, yours we are.**

**2 We are yours, in love befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep your flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Hear your children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Hear your children when we pray.**

**3 Let us always seek your favor,
Let us always do your will;
Jesus Christ our only Savior,
With your love our spirits fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still.**

All this time Saul was breathing down the necks of the Master’s disciples, out for the kill. He went to the Chief Priest and got arrest warrants to take to the meeting places in Damascus so that if he found anyone there belonging to the Way, whether men or women, he could arrest them and bring them to Jerusalem.

He set off. When he got to the outskirts of Damascus, he was suddenly dazed by a blinding flash of light. As he fell to the ground, he heard a voice: “Saul, Saul, why are you out to get me?”

He said, “Who are you, Master?”

“I am Jesus, the One you’re hunting down. I want you to get up and enter the city. In the city you’ll be told what to do next.”

His companions stood there dumbstruck—they could hear the sound, but couldn’t see anyone—while Saul, picking himself up off the ground, found himself stone-blind. They had to take him by the hand and lead him into Damascus. He continued blind for three days. He ate nothing, drank nothing.

There was a disciple in Damascus by the name of Ananias. The Master spoke to him in a vision: “Ananias.”

“Yes, Master?” he answered.

“Get up and go over to Straight Avenue. Ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus. His name is Saul. He’s there praying. He has just had a dream in which he saw a man named Ananias enter the house and lay hands on him so he could see again.”

Ananias protested, “Master, you can’t be serious. Everybody’s talking about this man and the terrible things he’s been doing, his reign of terror against your people in Jerusalem! And now he’s shown up here with papers from the Chief Priest that give him license to do the same to us.” But the Master said, “Don’t argue. Go! I have picked him as my personal representative to non-Jews and kings and Jews. And now I’m about to show him what he’s in for—the hard suffering that goes with this job.”

So Ananias went and found the house, placed his hands on blind Saul, and said, “Brother Saul, the Master sent me, the same Jesus you saw on your

way here. He sent me so you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” No sooner were the words out of his mouth than something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes—he could see again! He got to his feet, was baptized, and sat down with them to a hearty meal.

Call to Offering

Offertory

*Hymns of Praise

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Living God, who we adore.

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel Reading

John 21:1-19

Debbie Cotting

The Message

After this, Jesus appeared again to the disciples, this time at the Tiberias Sea (the Sea of Galilee). This is how he did it: Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed “Twin”), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the brothers Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. Simon Peter announced, “I’m going fishing.”

The rest of them replied, “We’re going with you.” They went out and got in the boat. They caught nothing that night. When the sun came up, Jesus was standing on the beach, but they didn’t recognize him.

Jesus spoke to them: “Good morning! Did you catch anything for breakfast?”

They answered, “No.”

He said, “Throw the net off the right side of the boat and see what happens.” They did what he said. All of a sudden there were so many fish in it, they weren’t strong enough to pull it in.

Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Master!”

When Simon Peter realized that it was the Master, he threw on some clothes, for he was stripped for work, and dove into the sea. The other disciples came in by boat for they weren’t far from land, a hundred yards or so, pulling along the net full of fish. When they got out of the boat, they saw a fire laid, with fish and bread cooking on it.

Jesus said, “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught.” Simon Peter joined them and pulled the net to shore—153 big fish! And even with all those fish, the net didn’t rip.

Jesus said, “Breakfast is ready.” Not one of the disciples dared ask, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Master.

Jesus then took the bread and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus had shown himself alive to the disciples since being raised from the dead.

After breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Master, you know I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

He then asked a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

“Yes, Master, you know I love you.”

Jesus said, “Shepherd my sheep.”

Then he said it a third time: “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was upset that he asked for the third time, “Do you love me?” so he answered, “Master, you know everything there is to know. You’ve got to know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. I’m telling you the very truth now: When you were young you dressed yourself and went wherever you wished, but when you get old you’ll have to stretch out your hands while someone else dresses you and takes you where you don’t want to go.” He said this to hint at the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. And then he commanded, “Follow me.”