

He even built our meeting place.”

Jesus went with them. When he was still quite far from the house, the captain sent friends to tell him, “Master, you don’t have to go to all this trouble. I’m not that good a person, you know. I’d be embarrassed for you to come to my house, even embarrassed to come to you in person. Just give the order and my servant will get well. I’m a man under orders; I also give orders. I tell one soldier, ‘Go,’ and he goes; another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

Taken aback, Jesus addressed the accompanying crowd: “I’ve yet to come across this kind of simple trust anywhere in Israel, the very people who are supposed to know about God and how he works.” When the messengers got back home, they found the servant up and well.

Message: “The Audacity of Truth”

Closing Hymn: “Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”

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Benediction



Our ushers today are David Bjorkman and Jeff Law.

**Please join us for Coffee Hour which is hosted by
Lisa and Jim Wilkie.**

**The flowers on the altar today are given by Judy and Al Johnson in memory of
their parents, Gingy & Dotty Johnson and Marge & Chris Harding.**

We welcome our guest organist, Cherie Asgeirsson.



**Children of all ages are welcomed to Room 14 this
summer during Worship Service for compassion camp
with Christine Marshall and Christina Joly.**

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

5 Summer St. Lynnfield MA 01940

781-334-3050 www.Centre-Church.org

We Welcome Everyone: An Open and Affirming Church

Rev Thomas Bentley, Pastor

Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

Celeste Joly, Church Administrative Assistant

Leah O’Brien, Director of Tower Day School



“The Audacity of Truth”

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

June 22, 2025 10:00 am

Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship Scott Barke

Leader: Break down the barriers that divide us, O Lord.

People: Tear down the walls of hostility and fear.

Leader: Melt the barbed wire of anger and hatred.

People: Breathe new life into your people, O God.

Leader: For we are called to newness in Christ Jesus.

People: We are all brothers and sisters through God’s love.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who removes obstacles from our paths.

People: Let us praise God who seeks to unite us in peace. AMEN.

Opening Prayer (in unison) Scott Barke

Open our hearts today, O Lord, to feel the powerful strength and love you have for us. Help us to listen, not only with our ears, but with our spirits for your words of compassion and healing. Enable us to become more faithful disciples for you; for we ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

The Lord’s Prayer (in unison) Scott Barke

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: “Immortal, Invisible. God Only Wise” #1

New Testament Reading Scott Barke

Galatians 1:1-12 The Message

I, Paul, and my companions in faith here, send greetings to the Galatian churches. My authority for writing to you does not come from any popular vote of the people, nor does it come through the appointment of some human higher-up. It comes directly from Jesus the Messiah and God the Father, who raised him from the dead. I’m God-commissioned. So, I greet you with the great words, grace and peace!

*Stand as you are able

We know the meaning of those words because Jesus Christ rescued us from this evil world we’re in by offering himself as a sacrifice for our sins. God’s plan is that we all experience that rescue. Glory to God forever! Oh, yes!

I can’t believe how you waver—how easily you have turned traitor to him who called you by the grace of Christ by embracing an alternative message! It is not a minor variation, you know; it is completely other, an alien message, a no-message, a lie about God. Those who are provoking this agitation among you are turning the Message of Christ on its head. Let me be blunt: If one of us—even if an angel from heaven!—were to preach something other than what we preached originally, let him be cursed. I said it once; I’ll say it again: If anyone, regardless of reputation or credentials, preaches something other than what you received originally, let him be cursed.

Do you think I speak this strongly in order to manipulate crowds? Or court favor with God? Or get popular applause? If my goal was popularity, I wouldn’t bother being Christ’s slave. Know this—I am most emphatic here, friends—this great Message I delivered to you is not mere human optimism. I didn’t receive it through the traditions, and I wasn’t taught it in some school. I got it straight from God, received the Message directly from Jesus Christ.

Call to Offering

*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, who we adore.

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel Reading Scott Barke

Luke 7: 1-10 The Message

When he finished speaking to the people, he entered Capernaum. A Roman captain there had a servant who was on his deathbed. He prized him highly and didn’t want to lose him. When he heard Jesus was back, he sent leaders from the Jewish community asking him to come and heal his servant. They came to Jesus and urged him to do it, saying, “He deserves this. He loves our people.