

Then he turned to the crowd: “When you see clouds coming in from the west, you say, ‘Storm’s coming’—and you’re right. And when the wind comes out of the south, you say, ‘This’ll be a hot one’—and you’re right. Frauds! You know how to tell a change in the weather, so don’t tell me you can’t tell a change in the season, the God-season we’re in right now.

Message: “Tending to the Garden” Rev. Tom Bentley
Closing Song: “Praise to the Living God” #8
Benediction: Rev. Tom Bentley
Postlude

Our ushers today are Scott Barke and Jeff Law

Please join us for Coffee Hour which is hosted by Jeannie Bentley



Children of all ages are welcomed to Room 14 this morning during Worship Service for Compassion Camp with Christine Marshall and Christina Joly.



Thank you to all who came to the special Worship Service last Sunday!



CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
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
Celeste Joly, Church Administrative Assistant
Leah O’Brien, Director of Tower Day School



"Tending to the Garden"

Rev. Thomas Bentley

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

August 17, 2025 10:00 am

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Jim Wilkie

Leader: The Lord calls us to grow in faithfulness.
People: Take away our greed and selfishness, O Lord!
Leader: The Lord challenges us to serve others in loving ways!
People: Help us grow in our service and witness to your mercy and peace.
Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord who delights in our witness.
People: Let us praise God who is always with us. AMEN.

Opening Prayer

Jim Wilkie

Lord of light and life, you have called us this day to open our hearts, our minds, our spirits to hear your words of encouragement, healing, and hope. Give us patience and willingness to serve you in all that we do. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen

Lord’s Prayer *(in unison)*

Jim Wilkie

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:

“I Would Be True”

#492

Sacrament of Infant Baptism (see insert)

Old Testament Reading

Jim Wilkie

Isaiah 5: 1-7 *The Message*
I’ll sing a ballad to the one I love, a love ballad about his vineyard: The one I love had a vineyard, a fine, well-placed vineyard. He hoed the soil and pulled the weeds, and planted the very best vines. He built a lookout, built a winepress, a vineyard to be proud of. He looked for a vintage yield of grapes, but for all his pains he got garbage grapes.

“Now listen to what I’m telling you, you who live in Jerusalem and Judah. What do you think is going on between me and my vineyard?

*Stand as you are able

Can you think of anything I could have done to my vineyard that I didn’t do? When I expected good grapes, why did I get bitter grapes?

“Well now, let me tell you what I’ll do to my vineyard: I’ll tear down its fence and let it go to ruin. I’ll knock down the gate and let it be trampled. I’ll turn it into a patch of weeds, untended, uncared for—thistles and thorns will take over. I’ll give orders to the clouds: ‘Don’t rain on that vineyard, ever!’”

Do you get it? The vineyard of God-of-the-Angel-Armies is the country of Israel. All the men and women of Judah are the garden he was so proud of. He looked for a crop of justice and saw them murdering each other. He looked for a harvest of righteousness and heard only the moans of victims.

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

Jim Wilkie

Luke 12:49-56 *The Message*
“I’ve come to start a fire on this earth—how I wish it were blazing right now! I’ve come to change everything, turn everything right-side-up—how I long for it to be finished! Do you think I came to smooth things over and make everything nice? Not so. I’ve come to disrupt and confront! From now on, when you find five in a house, it will be—

Three against two, and two against three; Father against son, and son against father; Mother against daughter, and daughter against mother; Mother-in-law against bride, and bride against mother-in-law.”