



July 12, 2026

“Verdant Listening”

Rev. Tom Bentley

Welcoming All.
Growing Together.
Following Christ.
centre-church.org



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA 01940

Children can go directly to room 14 for our summer program, Animal Crackers, focusing on HEIFER. Each week the children will learn about a different animal and its benefits.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Tom Bentley

Call to Worship

Lisa Wilkie

Leader: God sows abundant seeds in confidence that there will be a harvest.

People: Some seeds find no roots, others are snatched away by troubles.

Leader: We do not have control of how God's seeds will grow.

Leader & People: But with eager hearts we wait to see the growth of planted love. AMEN.

Opening Prayer (*in unison*)

Lisa Wilkie

Lord, you know us so well. We thank you for your presence in our lives, even when we don't recognize it. This day we have gathered, coming from a week of unexpected happenings and events which have surprised us.

Make us ready to become stronger witnesses for your love as we receive your word and find our spirits and lives healed. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

Lisa 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.

***Hymn:** *"Hear the Voice of God, So Tender"* **#174**

1 Hear the voice of God, so tender, gathering us in
righteousness, giving, as our sure defender, steadfast love
and faithfulness.

Bless God's holy name together, as the Spirit brings new life.
Giving, as our sure defender, steadfast love and
faithfulness.

2. God is healing and forgiving creatures who are sore
distressed, opening doors to hopeful living, as, by love,
we're daily blessed.

Bless God's holy name together,
as the Spirit brings new life. Opening doors to hopeful living,
as, by love, we're daily blessed.

3. Listening to the Spirit's guiding, breath beyond the written code, we, in covenant abiding, seek to write our letters bold.

Bless God's holy name together, as the Spirit brings new life.
We, in covenant abiding, seek to write our letters bold.

4. Shed the old wineskins of warfare for the fresh new wines of peace, knowing God sustains our welfare with a love that will not cease.

Bless God's holy name together, as the Spirit brings new life.
Knowing God sustains our welfare with a love that will not cease.

New Testament Reading

Lisa Wilkie

Romans 8:1-2 *(The Message)*

With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation.

The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death.

Call to Offering

Rev. Tom Bentley

Offertory

***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, whom we adore.

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Tom Bentley

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel Reading

Lisa Wilkie

Matthew 25:31-36 *(The Message)*

At about that same time Jesus left the house and sat on the beach. In no time at all a crowd gathered along the shoreline, forcing him to get into a boat. Using the boat as a pulpit, he addressed his congregation, telling stories.

“What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn’t put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.

“Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

“Study this story of the farmer planting seed. When anyone hears news of the kingdom and doesn’t take it in, it just remains on the surface, and so the Evil One comes along and plucks it right out of that person’s heart. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road.

“The seed cast in the gravel—this is the person who hears and instantly responds with enthusiasm. But there is no soil of character, and so when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.

“The seed cast in the weeds is the person who hears the kingdom news, but weeds of worry and illusions about getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard, and nothing comes of it.

“The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.”

Message: *“Verdant Listening”* Rev. Tom Bentley

***Hymn:** *“Savior, Again, to Your Dear Name”* **#80**

1 Savior, again to your dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise.
We join to bless you ere our worship cease,
then, in the silence, wait your word of peace.

2 Grant us your peace upon our homeward way;
with you began, with you shall end the day;
guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon your name.

3 Grant us your peace, as day turns into night;
stay with us till the coming of the light;
Keep safe all those who call upon your name,
for dark and light to you are both the same.

4 Grant us your peace throughout our earthly life,
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
Then, when your voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O God, to your eternal peace.

Benediction

Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude

Our ushers today are Jeff Langill and Bill Seelig.

Our Coffee Hour host are Nancy Lauzon and Perry Hayden.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY



10am Worship Service Sunday 19th July

Join us for our Pajama/Toy Drive to help Cradles For Crayons while singing your favorite Christmas carol.

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy, pajamas or school supplies that Sunday to put under the tree.

Hope you can all join us.

5 Summer St,
Lynnfield, MA 01940

Worship Notes.

Music licenses: One License with license #A-733437, and CCLI License #A-2267261 and Streaming #CSPL169342, Size A

Welcoming All.
Growing Together.
Following Christ.
centre-church.org



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

An Open and Affirming Church

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, MA 01940

781-334-3050

www.centre-church.org

Rev Tom Bentley - Pastor

Douglas W. Hodgkins - Organist / Choir Director

Leah O'Brien - Director of Tower Day School

Ruth Buxton - Faith Formation & Community Engagement Director