



Rock of Ages
cleft for me
let me hide myself
In Thee

Sunday August 9, 2026

"Help For The Faint of Heart"

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

Scott Barke

Leader: Our help is in God, who calls us to worship.

People: Our hope is in love, that calls us to care.

Leader: Come, let us bring our full selves to worship.

Leader and People: Let us bring our full love and care.

Opening Prayer (*in unison*)

Scott Barke

Gracious and loving God, bless us with your presence as we worship this day.

Bless us with your love as we grow in love and mature faith. Bless us with your guidance as we give ourselves to you, to your church, and to your work in the world.

Rock of ages, be our fortress and our shelter in troubled times.

Be our strength and our courage when we are afraid.

Be our grace and our forgiveness when we fall short.

Be our inspiration and our guide when we strive to serve you and your world fully.

In hope and gratitude, we pray. 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.

***Hymn:** *"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"*

#596

1 Rock of ages, cleft for me,
let me hide; my shelter be!
Let the water and the blood,
from your wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
cleanse me from its guilt and power.

2 Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill your law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
you must save, and you alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to your cross I cling;
Naked, come to you for dress;
helpless, look to you for grace;
Stained, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die!

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when my eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
meet you at your judgment throne,
Rock of ages, cleft for me,
let me hide; my shelter be!

New Testament Reading

Scott Barke

Romans 10:9-10 *(The Message)*

It's the word of faith that welcomes God to go to work and set things right for us. This is the core of our preaching. Say the welcoming word to God—"Jesus is my Master"—embracing, body and soul, God's work of doing in us what he did in raising Jesus from the dead.

That's it. You're not "doing" anything; you're simply calling out to God, trusting him to do it for you. That's salvation. With your whole being you embrace God setting things right, and then you say it, right out loud: "God has set everything right between him and me!"

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

Scott Barke

Matthew 14:22-33 (*The Message*)

As soon as the meal was finished, he insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.

Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared to death. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror.

But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come ahead."

Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, "Master, save me!"

Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said, "Faint-heart, what got into you?"

The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, "This is it! You are God's Son for sure!"

Message: *"Help For The Faint of Heart"* Rev. Tom Bentley

Sacrament of Holy Communion Rev. Tom Bentley

- Invitation

- Words of Remembrance

- Words of Blessing

- Holy Communion

The congregation is invited to come forward to receive the bread and unfermented wine either through intinction in the chalice or using the small communion cups provided.

- 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

***Hymn:** *"Be Still My Soul"*

#488

1 Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best eternal friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2 Be still, my soul: for God will undertake
to guide in future days as in the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
how Jesus' power ruled them long ago.

2 Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here
when we shall be with God whom we adore,
with disappointment, no grief nor fear,
sorrow replaced with joy forevermore.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Benediction

Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude

Our ushers today are Bill Seelig and Joe Tringale.

Our Coffee Hour hosts are Nina Emery and Roy Sorli.

Worship Notes.

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

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An Open and Affirming Church

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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