



# Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

71 Central Square, Bridgewater MA 02324 – (508) 697-6016 – [cscucc.org](http://cscucc.org)

*“We are a Christian community of people who are reaching out to our neighbors,  
at home and abroad, sharing our faith and our resources.”*

**June 28, 2020  
10:00 AM**

*We are delighted to have you in Worship today!*

In our church, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, **you are welcome here!**

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## CSCC Staff

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All the People!

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Rich Sullivan

## Order of Christian Worship

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Introit**

## **Call to Worship**

God calls into our midst those who are beloved in all their diversity:

We welcome them.

God calls into our midst all those who are vulnerable,

In need of teaching, healing, shelter

We welcome them.

God calls into our midst all those with a word of challenge

That proclaims God's love for all

We welcome them.

Let us worship God, who calls us to be "prophets of welcome".

Let us pray...

## **Prayer of Invocation and Confession**

Holy One, who calls us into community, and invites us to welcome your prophets and messengers, let us experience your welcome to us gathered in various places but joined in this moment. Show us that we are beloved and honored in your presence and in this community. Show us how to put our resources at the service of all, help us know that the cup of water given in your name nourishes the one who gives and the one who receives. Satisfy our thirst to know your presence here and now.

God of all, you call us into the ways of life and holiness, which honor your image in all whom we meet. When we ration your welcome to a very few:

Christ have mercy.

God of abundance, you call us to stop clinging to things, To trust in your goodness to provide all we need. When we grasp and hoard and do not share,

Christ have mercy.

God of hope, you call us to imagine a future where all find a place at the table, a safe and joyful welcome to neighbors, children, creation. When we stop short of your vision of mercy and justice for all,

Christ have mercy.

Be with us as we offer you the silent confessions of our hearts...

## **Assurance of God's Grace**

Holy One, who is still speaking through our words,

Help us to hear your assurance in the peace we share together.

You will always welcome us by name. Amen.

## **Musical Meditation**

**Epistle Reading:** Romans 6:12b-23 (The Message Bible)

You must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Don't give it the time of day. Don't even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time—remember, you've been raised from the dead!—into God's way of doing things. Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God.

<sup>15-18</sup> So, since we're out from under the old tyranny, does that mean we can live any old way we want? Since we're free in the freedom of God, can we do anything that comes to mind? Hardly. You know well enough from your own experience that there are some acts of so-called freedom that destroy freedom. Offer yourselves to sin, for instance, and it's your last free act. But offer yourselves to the ways of God and the freedom never quits. All your lives you've let sin tell you what to do. But thank God you've started listening to a new master, one whose commands set you free to live openly in *his* freedom!

<sup>19</sup> I'm using this freedom language because it's easy to picture. You can readily recall, can't you, how at one time the more you did just what you felt like doing—not caring about others, not caring about God—the worse your life became and the less freedom you had? And how much different is it now as you live in God's freedom, your lives healed and expansive in holiness?

<sup>20-21</sup> As long as you did what you felt like doing, ignoring God, you didn't have to bother with right thinking or right living, or right *anything* for that matter. But do you call that a free life? What did you get out of it? Nothing you're proud of now. Where did it get you? A dead end.

<sup>22-23</sup> But now that you've found you don't have to listen to sin tell you what to do, and have discovered the delight of listening to God telling you, what a surprise! A whole, healed, put-together life right now, with more and more of life on the way! Work hard for sin your whole life and your pension is death. But God's gift is *real life*, eternal life, delivered by Jesus, our Master.

*God has called us to a way of life that we do not always understand. The ways of this world do not match up to the way of God. Sometimes we hear the call from the world and mistake it for the call of God. We fall into the ways of sin in this world, of selfish desire, of listening for a word that pleases others, instead of listening to God. Christ calls us into a different way of life: listening as hospitality. Welcome God into your space by welcoming others. Welcoming the most vulnerable among us is how we welcome God.*

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 89:1-9,14-52

<sup>1</sup>I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;  
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

<sup>2</sup>I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

<sup>3</sup>You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

<sup>4</sup>“I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.”” *Selah*

<sup>5</sup>Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,  
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.

<sup>6</sup>For who in the skies can be compared to the Lord?

Who among the heavenly beings is like the Lord,

<sup>7</sup>a God feared in the council of the holy ones, great and awesome above all that are around him?

<sup>8</sup>O Lord God of hosts, who is as mighty as you, O Lord? Your faithfulness surrounds you.

<sup>9</sup>You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them.

<sup>14</sup>Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;  
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

<sup>15</sup>Happy are the people who know the festal shout,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your countenance;

<sup>16</sup>they exult in your name all day long, and extol your righteousness.

<sup>17</sup>For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted.

<sup>18</sup>For our shield belongs to the Lord, our king to the Holy One of Israel.

<sup>19</sup>Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said:

“I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.

<sup>20</sup>I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him;

<sup>21</sup>my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

<sup>22</sup>The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.

<sup>23</sup>I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

<sup>24</sup>My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him;  
and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

<sup>25</sup>I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

<sup>26</sup>He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!’

<sup>27</sup>I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

<sup>28</sup>Forever I will keep my steadfast love for him, and my covenant with him will stand firm.

<sup>29</sup>I will establish his line forever, and his throne as long as the heavens endure.

<sup>30</sup>If his children forsake my law and do not walk according to my ordinances,

<sup>31</sup>if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments,

<sup>32</sup>then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with scourges;

<sup>33</sup>but I will not remove from him my steadfast love, or be false to my faithfulness.

<sup>34</sup>I will not violate my covenant, or alter the word that went forth from my lips.  
<sup>35</sup>Once and for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David.  
<sup>36</sup>His line shall continue forever, and his throne endure before me like the sun.  
<sup>37</sup>It shall be established forever like the moon, an enduring witness in the skies.”

***Selah***

<sup>38</sup>But now you have spurned and rejected him; you are full of wrath against your anointed.  
<sup>39</sup>You have renounced the covenant with your servant; you have defiled his crown in the dust.  
<sup>40</sup>You have broken through all his walls; you have laid his strongholds in ruins.  
<sup>41</sup>All who pass by plunder him; he has become the scorn of his neighbors.  
<sup>42</sup>You have exalted the right hand of his foes; you have made all his enemies rejoice.  
<sup>43</sup>Moreover, you have turned back the edge of his sword, and you have not supported him in battle.  
<sup>44</sup>You have removed the scepter from his hand, and hurled his throne to the ground.  
<sup>45</sup>You have cut short the days of his youth; you have covered him with shame.

***Selah***

<sup>46</sup>How long, O Lord? Will you hide yourself forever? How long will your wrath burn like fire?  
<sup>47</sup>Remember how short my time is— for what vanity you have created all mortals!  
<sup>48</sup>Who can live and never see death? Who can escape the power of Sheol? ***Selah***  
<sup>49</sup>Lord, where is your steadfast love of old, which by your faithfulness you swore to David?  
<sup>50</sup>Remember, O Lord, how your servant is taunted; how I bear in my bosom the insults of the peoples,  
<sup>51</sup>with which your enemies taunt, O Lord, with which they taunted the footsteps of your anointed.  
<sup>52</sup>Blessed be the Lord forever. Amen and Amen.

**Sung Response**

*“Gloria Patri”*

*Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.*

*World without End! Amen. Amen.*

**Moment for All Ages**

**Musical Meditation**

## Sermon

Many years ago, when I first heard the quotation “*God always chooses ordinary people for impossible tasks*” I was stunned at the concept of the risks that God took when calling people to fulfill God-inspired work by using the least likely people for those roles. Today I continue to see that happen time and time again! In those experiences, I also discovered that when God calls us, God also empowers us!  
(*When God calls anyone to a task, God also empowers them! Selah*)

I believe one of life’s great pleasures is looking at the stars and moon at night, and when I have trouble sleeping, I often sit and marvel at the immensity of the night sky! The mystery and majesty of the night sky always leads me into awed prayer. My prayers usually center on words similar to the psalmist’s: “*God’s unfailing love will last forever. God’s faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens....*” What an absolutely incredible faith statement and promise!  
(*Have you written or updated your statement of faith recently?*)

## Pastoral Prayer

Welcoming God, welcome us into Your pace of life. Guide us to slow down and breathe deep. Remind us to take off our shoes, to take off what is dragging us or pushing us ahead, for this is holy space that we are in, right now. Remove the yoke from us and take upon our burdens, so that we might feel the pressure ease from our bodies, minds, and spirits. Invite us into Your presence that is always with us, into this way of being in which we are completely in touch with You, in which we know Your Spirit is in each breath. Remind us that we are your anointed ones, living for you. Welcoming God, thank you for welcoming us into Your way of life. In the name of Jesus, who taught us this way, we pray the prayer he taught us saying...

**The Lord’s Prayer** (Please use the wording that is most meaningful for you)

*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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

## Prayer Response

## Benediction

## Postlude

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*Do you need a meal, a call, spiritual care, or even just a prayer?  
Contact the Pastor, a Deacon, or a member of our Care Team.*

To contact Rev. Beth, call the church office at  
508-697-6016 or email her at  
[csccpastor@hotmail.com](mailto:csccpastor@hotmail.com).

### **CSCC Deacons**

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### **CSCC Care Team**

Carol Chaffee  
Phoebe Hogg  
Bev Mitchell  
John Scott  
Rev. Beth Stotts

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## **GIFTS, TITHES, AND OFFERINGS**

During this time, we encourage you to continue your support of CSCC, to the degree you are able. We know this may be a trying time for you financially as well as emotionally, so please know that we understand if you are not able to meet your usual giving goals. But for those who can, remember the church has ongoing expenses that don't care that everything is shut down. And we are trying to do right by our staff as much as possible, even though our primary income mechanism is unavailable (Sunday offerings).

As illustration, we are \$11,800 behind on pledges and offerings, compared to last year on this date. Offerings can be made in any of the following ways: \* Checks can be mailed to the church (71 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324) \* Bill-pay through your bank can be set up for one-time or recurring payments \* Payments can be made via the Paypal link at the top of our website home page (no Paypal account necessary) ([www.cscucc.org](http://www.cscucc.org), the "For CSCC" donate button) If you have any questions, you can email the Treasurer directly and confidentially at [treasurer@cscucc.com](mailto:treasurer@cscucc.com).