



Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

71 Central Square, Bridgewater MA 02324 – (508) 697-6016 – 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.”

**September 20, 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!**

Follow us on Facebook:

[facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma](https://www.facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma)

Check our Website: cscucc.org



CSCC Staff

Ministers:

All the People!

Pastor:

Rev. Elizabeth Stotts – csccpastor@hotmail.com

Congregational Administrator:

Ellen Atherton – office@cscucc.com

Minister of Music:

Julia Scott Carey – juliascottcarey@gmail.com

Treasurer:

David Sheibley – treasurer@cscucc.com

Sexton:

Rich Sullivan

Community Welcome

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship

Are you suffering? Some of us are tired and sick.

Are you sad? Some of us often weep.

Are you wounded? Some of us bear many scars.

Brothers and sisters, as children of a loving Creator,
we can share each other's sorrows.

We can bear witness to each other's lives.

Through our worship together, we proclaim that we are children of God,
the Holy One, Love. Please join me in prayer...

Opening Prayer

God of calmness, we know you're here with us. You see our slightest movement.

You hear our every breath. Be with us and help us to feel your presence. Awaken our senses in this changing season. Help us to know your warmth through the sun on our skin and the love in our hearts. Help us to feel your strength with each step we take on firm ground. We know you're here. Surround us, gather us as one people in our worship today. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 145:1-8

¹I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. ²Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever. ³Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable. ⁴One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. ⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. ⁶The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness. ⁷They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness. ⁸The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Exodus 16:2-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” ⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but” against the Lord. ⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’” ¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Prayer

God of our Ancestors, You continue to show us the way out of oppression. You continue to lead us through the wilderness with a promise of an abundant life. Sometimes, we have become our own stumbling blocks, longing for a vision of the past that never existed, instead of understanding You are with us, right now. Sometimes, we hope for a future that is not what You desire for us and are disappointed when the paths don't lead us where we hope. God of our Ancestors, help us to trust in You. Remind us of the promises of old, and guide us to move forward in faith, even when the path is unknown. Help us to let go of false hopes, of veiled memories of better days, and lead us into Your ways of love, justice, and mercy.

For we know that Your reign is at hand, and is coming. We know Your beloved community is now, and yet to be complete. We put our trust in You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Sermon

Prayer of Confession

God of Justice and Mercy, we confess that often our desire for justice is a desire for punishment of those who have done us wrong.
We confess that we sometimes do not show mercy, yet we expect mercy ourselves. Forgive us for our selfish, foolish ways.
Forgive us for not seeking Your way that turns the world upside down.
In Your reign, You welcome those who have come around last.
You embrace those who realize they need to turn their lives around even at the last moment.
You love us all as Your children. Help us to love with that same love.
Help us to show mercy as You have showed mercy to us.
Help us to practice justice that repairs and restores, rather than punishes.
In the name of Christ, who has shown us the Way, the Truth, and the Life, we pray.
Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

How great and merciful is our God! How just and true!
How wonderful that God loves us and forgives us.
How awesome that God accepts us,
and calls us to love one another as we have first been loved by God.
Seek forgiveness from others by doing the hard work
toward reparation and reconciliation,
and know that God forgives you, and God's love and grace are with you always.

Musical Meditation

Benediction

Postlude

September Fundraiser



The CSCC real-time online auction is still going on! Last chance for one of a kind items that will be shipped right to your door - like this Edelman print pictured!

Bid on items today using the link below! **This auction ends TODAY at 6:00 PM.** (*Christmas is just around the corner and these would make GREAT gifts!*)

<https://go.americancharityauctions.com/centralsquarechurc>
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*Do you need a meal, a call, spiritual care, or even just a prayer?
Contact the Office, 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.

CSCC Deacons

Deb Sorgman –
debsorgman@gmail.com
Lynn Pietras –lsypie@aol.com



CSCC Care Team

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

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, the "For CSCC" donate button) If you have any questions, you can email the Treasurer directly and confidentially at treasurer@cscucc.com.

BUDGET MEETING

Please remember that our **annual budget meeting** is **TODAY** at **11am**. *It will be a virtual meeting, broadcast over Facebook and YouTube, exactly the way our Sunday worship is every week.*

Remember that every individual church member is eligible to vote. It is not by household, it is by individual, however you must be a church member.

PLEASE plan on attending from your home. It will likely not be a long meeting, but we do need to make sure we have a quorum, as well as a vote on whether or not to approve this year's budget. Quorum will be determined by the number of members who vote.

If you are unable to attend at 11am on Sunday, the recording of the meeting will be available on Facebook and on YouTube, as our worship services are. Feel free to watch it later.

Whether you "attend" the meeting or not, you are eligible to vote. Voting is currently open via email and phone, and will remain open through 12:00noon on Monday (online voting will open on Sunday at 10am and will continue through noon on Monday as well). A copy of the budget, as well as instructions on asking questions and voting, is found on the home page of our website, www.cscucc.org, as well as in the September issue of Steeple Sounds.

In summary:

To submit your question during the meeting:

- * You can comment on the livestream post on Facebook.
- * You can comment on the livestream on YouTube (you must be signed in to YouTube to comment).
- * You can email your question to office@cscucc.com

To cast your vote regarding acceptance of the 2020-21 CSCC budget:

- * **Vote online** during the meeting, or afterward until 12 noon, Monday, Sept. 21 (link will be live on the cscucc.org starting at 10am on Sunday).
- * **Email** your vote to the church office at office@cscucc.com, before, during, or after the meeting. **ALL VOTES** must be received **by 12 noon, Monday, Sept. 21**. You must include your name and your vote (yes / no / abstain).
- * **Call** the church office with your vote, before, during, or after the meeting. Leave a message if you get the voicemail
- you must include your name and your vote (yes / no / abstain). **ALL CALL-IN VOTES** must be received **by 12 noon, Monday, Sept. 21**.