

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

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

October 18, 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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Check our Website: csccucc.org



CSCC Staff

Ministers: All the People!

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Stotts – <u>csccpastor@hotmail.com</u>

Congregational Administrator: Ellen Atherton – <u>office@csccucc.com</u>

Minister of Music: Julia Scott Carey – <u>juliascottcarey@gmail.com</u>

Treasurer: David Sheibley – <u>treasurer@csccucc.com</u>

Sexton: Rich Sullivan



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Call to Worship (Psalm 96:1-4)

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless God's name; tell of God's salvation from day to day. Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; God is to be revered above all.

Opening Prayer

God of forever and right now, By your Spirit open our ears to hear your Word to us in scripture, in sermon, in song. Open our eyes to see your Word to us in children's faces, in troubling statistics, in our action together. Open our hearts to feel your Word to us in the warmth of love, in the ache of sadness, in the energy of commitment. Strengthen our desire for justice for all children, And our wills to advocate and organize, So that all children may grow up safe, and thrive in community. Be with us as we pray, as we live, and as we worship, This day and always, Amen.

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Exodus 33:12-23 (God speaks to Moses face to face as a friend.)

¹²Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' ¹³Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. ¹⁶For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth." ¹⁷The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I

know you by name." ¹⁸Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." ¹⁹And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." ²¹And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; ²²and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

Questions for God

How shall we know that we have found favor in your sight, O God? How do children know that they are created in your image? How do we raise up youth to always know your presence goes with them? How do we find this faith within ourselves, O God? We ask these questions with humble hearts. Amen.

Musical Meditation:	"Church Bell at Night"	Livia Racz, soprano	
	Selections from He	Selections from Hermit Songs by Samuel Barber	

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

God of All, we confess that we have made idols

of wealth, notoriety, and other worldly measures of success.

As these idols are crashing down around us,

we are losing hope, losing joy, losing faith.

But You are the God above all.

You are the One who leads us into Your reign, a place not of this world.

You are the one who shows us how to truly live, by loving our neighbors as ourselves. Lead us into the true faith, O God, through Jesus Christ Your Son, who lived, who died, and lives again, teaching us to live into Your ways of love, justice, mercy, and peace. In these ways, we worship and live the true, abundant life You intended for us, now and into eternity. Amen and Amen.

Blessing and Assurance

Musical Meditation:	"The Heavenly Banquet"	Livia Racz, soprano
	Selections from Herm	it Songs by Samuel Barber

Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead— Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Sermon

Sermon Reflection Questions To Ponder

- To whom do you give your trust?
- What qualities make you trust someone?
- What makes God trustworthy?

Prayer

Musical Meditation:

"The Monk and His Cat" Livia Racz, soprano Selections from Hermit Songs by Samuel Barber

Benediction

Postlude



How can we have our fair during a pandemic? Well, we can't. Not the way we're used to, that is.

However! Mark Your Calendars For These Special Events! (and watch your email and social media for further details)



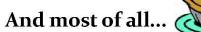
Attic Treasures Yard Sale : Saturday, October 31 9am-1pm

(Bag sale starts at noon!) On the front lawn of the church. Special Christmas section!

Turkey Supper Takeout Event Catered by Boston Tavern • Thursday, Nov. 12

Turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing gravy, vegetable, cranberry sauce, and dessert. Curbside pickup at the church. Pre-orders ONLY. More info to follow!







Pie Sale & Pie Night!

Saturday, November 7 • 10am - 12noon • Curbside pie sale at the church! Be prepared to come by and pick up a homemade pie (or two?)

Saturday, November 7 • 7-8pm • Virtual Pie Night!

Have your pie and coffee ready in the comfort of your own home, and fire up your computer or phone, log in to the Zoom room, and we'll divide up into small groups to visit and enjoy our pie. Not sure how that's going to work? No problem! You just log in to zoom that night, and we'll take care of the rest. More details to follow!

To carry out any of these, of course it takes a village. If you're willing to play a role (small or large) in one of these events, please let the church office know. There are jobs of all descriptions!

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 <u>csccpastor@hotmail.com</u>.

<u>CSCC Deacons</u> Deb Sorgman – <u>debsorgman@gmail.com</u> Lynn Pietras –lsypie@aol.com





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