



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.”*

*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:

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CSCC Staff

Ministers:

All the People!

Pastor:

Rev. Elizabeth Stotts – csccpastor@hotmail.com

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Treasurer:

David Sheibley – treasurer@cscucc.com

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Rich Sullivan

February 28, 2021 – 10:00AM
Special guest, Hannah McElman

Prelude: *“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”* by Dan Mitchell

Welcome & Announcements

Introit: *“Many and Great”* by John Carter

Call to Worship

We are God’s beloved.
We gather in worship
as we are, with our whole selves.
Our cares and concerns, our worries and our laments.
We gather with a longing to find healing and peace.
May God strengthen our faith and hold us close,
that we may find joy and grace.

Prayer of Invocation

Keeper of every moment in eternity:
we gather, not only to hear those words which can transform us,
but to be filled with your grace and hope.
We have come, not out of habit, but to respond to your call,
willing to be called away from the familiar ways of our lives.

Walker of our journeys, in the midst of our harried lives,
you call us to lay aside all that entangles us, to follow you into service to others.
You invite us to step into the waters of life and hope,
reaching out to draw others to our side
so, that together, we might enter your kingdom of laughter and joy.

When uncertainty fills every block in our daily planners,
you come, Grace's Companion, to offer that hope which anchors us;
to place our feet firmly on that rock called peace;
to bring us safely to that haven filled with your steadfast love.

God in Community, Holy in One,
Rock of every age, we pray as your people,
journeying together, Amen.

Opening Hymn:*“I Want Jesus to Go With Me”*

NCH#490

1 I want Jesus to go with me;
I want Jesus to go with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
O I want Jesus to go with me.

2 In my trials, O comfort me;
in my trials, O comfort me;
When my heart is almost breaking,
O I want Jesus to comfort me.

3 When I’m in trouble, O stay with me;
When I’m in trouble, O stay with me;
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
O I want Jesus to stay with me.

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 88

NRSV

¹O Lord, God of my salvation, when, at night, I cry out in your presence, ²let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry. ³For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. ⁴I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; I am like those who have no help, ⁵like those forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand. ⁶You have put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep. ⁷Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves. Selah. ⁸You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; ⁹my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call on you, O Lord; I spread out my hands to you. ¹⁰Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise you? Selah. ¹¹Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon? ¹²Are your wonders known in the darkness, or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness? ¹³But I, O Lord, cry out to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you. ¹⁴O Lord, why do you cast me off? Why do you hide your face from me? ¹⁵Wretched and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am desperate. ¹⁶Your wrath has swept over me; your dread assaults destroy me. ¹⁷They surround me like a flood all day long; from all sides they close in on me. ¹⁸You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

Musical Meditation:*“Amazing Grace”*

Reading:

John 16:16-23

NRSV

¹⁶"A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me." ¹⁷Then some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying to us, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" ¹⁸They said, "What does he mean by this 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'?" ²⁰Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. ²²So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. ²³On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.

Message:*"I Want Jesus to Go With Me"*

Rev. Beth Stotts

Prayer for the Second Sunday of Lent

Holy One,

We come before you,

many of us feeling like we have climbed just a part of the mountain,

and there is so much more of a climb left to even get to point

to dream that we might be dazzled by what is Divine.

Our loads are heavy, with worry, with regret, with fatigue, with illness,

with despair for all in the world that is hurting,

in danger, in bondage and more.

We trudge ahead, following you, stumbling, hoping, praying...

breathing hard, hearts pounding, and yes,

even some of us are nimble and skipping.

Lead us Lord, to the top of that mountain,

where we might be dazzled by your Light, lifted by what is Divine,

filled by the sheer delight of what is luminous and grounded and real.

We pray this, for ourselves, for one another,

and for the worlds in which we live in

in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Musical Meditation: *"Hallelujah"* by Leonard Cohen (arr. Tori Kelly)

Benediction *(inspired by Romans 4:18 - written by Jan L. Richardson)*

Hope nonetheless.
Hope despite.
Hope regardless.
Hope still.
Hope where we had ceased to hope.
Hope amid what threatens hope.
Hope with those who feed our hope.
Hope beyond what we had hoped.
Hope that draws us past our limits.
Hope that defies expectations.
Hope that questions what we have known.
Hope that makes a way where there is none.
Hope that takes us past our fear.
Hope that calls us into life.
Hope that holds us beyond death.
Hope that blesses those to come.

Postlude: *"I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light"* by Kathleen Thomerson



Lent

- Rev. Beth has prepared a **LENTEN STUDY GUIDE** which is available on the church website. (cscucc.org)
- The **LENTEN BOOK STUDY** is "Lent in Plain Sight". See cscucc.org/events for more details and how to sign up!

*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 by emailing
office@cscucc.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

To contact Rev. Beth, call the church office at 508-697-6016 or email her at csccpastor@hotmail.com.

Contributions Welcomed!

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 need to be attended to.

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 (www.cscucc.org).

If you have any questions, you can email the Treasurer directly and confidentially at treasurer@cscucc.com or call the church office at 508-697-6016.