

Central Square Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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

Sunday, September 12, 2021
10:00 a.m.

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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Check our Website: www.cscucc.org



CSCC Staff

Ministers:

All the People!

Pastor:

Rev. Elizabeth Stotts – csccpastor@hotmail.com

Congregational Administrator:

Deborah Lancaster – office@cscucc.com

Minister of Music:

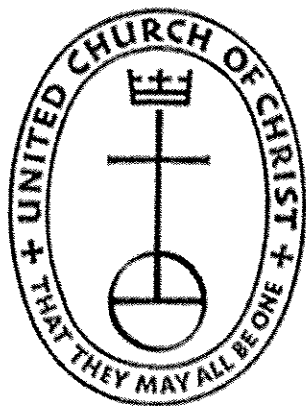
Julia Scott Carey – juliascottcarey@gmail.com

Treasurer:

David Sheibley – treasurer@cscucc.com

Sexton:

Rich Sullivan



Musical Guests: Bob Richards, Piano



Prelude:

“The Ash Grove”

Philip Keveren



Welcome and Announcements



Introit:

“Gathering”

Jim Brickman



Call to Worship

Here in this place, there are no foreigners,
for all are welcome in God’s house.
Here in this worship, there is only acceptance,
for love is the language of our faith.
Here in our lives, there are no divisions,
for God dwells in each of us.
Come, let us worship in unity and love.



Opening Prayer (inspired by Psalm 19)

Eternal God,
whose signature we see in the creation of the universe,
help us, through our worship today, to look and to listen
for Your handwriting and Your voice. Connect our temporary
praise to Your timeless rhythms, Your ageless melodies,
Your everlasting joyful noise. Guide us now to focus upon
You, knowing that in You, our distractions become new
possibilities for action. Breathe life into our singing, our
praying, our speaking, our listening, our touching, that all
these activities might become more than they are. In our
worship we reach out to You, O God, knowing that You
have already enfolded us in Your arms. In Jesus, we pray. Amen.



Musical Offering:

“We Gather Together”

Hymn #421

(included in Bulletin)



Scripture Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my



Scripture Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9 (continued)

face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.



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.*



New Testament Reading: James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine, figs? No more can saltwater yield fresh.



Musical Offering: "Autumn Song"

Pyotr Ilich Tchaikovsky



Gospel:

Mark 8: 27-38

27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" 28 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." 29 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." 30 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. 31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." 34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life^[b] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."



Sermon



Back To School Blessing

After months of learning behind screens or separated by dividers and physical space, many of our children and youth are returning to school. Today, may we as a family of faith lift them, along with their school teachers, staff, and administrators, up in prayer.

Let us pray:

God, our teacher, who helps us to understand the world around us, thank you for the privilege of education. In a year of turmoil, disruption, and loss, we recognize the gift of learning and the gift of teaching in ways we may not have appreciated before. You have blessed our communities with teachers who take new skills and concepts and pass them along to each

Back To School Blessing: (continued)

new class of young people. God, who came as a child to show us how to be fully human, to show us how to be children of God, You have given our children minds that grow and develop in unique ways, at unique speeds, and we are astounded by that miracle. You speak to us through the words, actions, play, and feelings of children. You call us to listen to the Spirit speaking through our young siblings in Christ. We celebrate the beginning of this school year and ask for your blessings upon the children, the educators, and the families who support them. But in this celebration of education and learning, we do not forget that there are children, families and teachers who do not have the resources they need. When systems are unjust, the outcomes are unacceptable. Today, we remember those who are beginning school this year: those who have what they need to learn and grow in safety, and those who lack supplies, teachers, safe buildings, and accommodations for all needs and abilities.

We gather our hearts in prayer, to lift our young people and all those who care for them and teach them. Open our hearts to show we can love, support, and serve all of your children.

**God of all Blessings,
God of fresh starts and new beginnings,
We gather our backpacks, our briefcases,
our tote-bags, and lunch boxes, these tools
of growth and learning, and we ask for your
blessing. Be with us through it all. Fill our
hearts, inspire our minds, and bless our
hands. Bless this journey into something new.
All this we pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**



Musical Offering: *"If I Can Help Somebody"* Mahalia Jackson



Prayer for All People:

Gracious God,
Today's scripture reminds us that words matter and that the way we choose our words holds within it the capacity to either harm or heal, to wound or welcome. In this time when words are tossed around so casually, may our words be used to build up the Body of Christ and share love and compassion in a broken and battered world.



Prayer for All People: (continued)

Holy and Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we pray for those who have been hurt by words:
for refugees and immigrants with or without documentation,
for women and girls who have endured words of sexism,
for people of color who hear words of racism,
for people with disabilities who are told they are “less than,”
for elderly people who are told they are useless,
for young adults who are told they are entitled, selfish, and irresponsible.
God of the Living Word, help us speak the truth in love
and to care for one another with the words we choose to speak.

Holy and Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

God of Healing and Wholeness,
we lift up to you our words of prayer
for the people near and dear to our hearts
as we lift them up silently before you...
Holy and Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Triune God, We lift these prayers to your ears
along with the prayer you taught us to pray, saying:



The Lord’s Prayer

*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.*



Closing Music: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

Hymn #76
(included in Bulletin)



Benediction



Postlude: “The Ash Grove”

Larry Schackley

Announcements:



CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR FALL/WINTER/SPRING

The Church Office will be open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. until next summer.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS SAVE THE DATE!!

Wednesday, September 15th @ 7:00 p.m.
Cabinet Meeting in Fellowship Hall.

Saturday, September 25th from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The 32nd Annual Autumn-Fest is a long-standing tradition in Bridgewater, MA, and is organized and presented exclusively by the Bridgewater Business Association (BBA) with the help of Bridgewater State University (BSU) and Community Partnerships at BSU, Bluestone Savings Bank, and the Bridgewater business community. It is held at the BSU Quad in front of Boyden Hall. It is attended annually by over 6,000 people.

Sunday, October 17th at 10:00 a.m. Worship Service will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Church's founding.

Saturday, October 23rd from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Women's Guild Fall Rummage Sale

Saturday, October 23rd from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. - 200th Anniversary Dinner Celebration at T. J. Smith's Victorian House in East Bridgewater. Tickets are available for order; details available in the Steeple Sounds newsletter or at the Church website at: www.cscucc.org

Today in Worship

today's date _____

Write or draw your responses during the service,
then tell someone about it later!

Today's Bible lesson is from: _____

(book)

(chapter/verses)

This is about (or made me think about) _____

During the service I wondered about...

Something I heard
or learned
about God today is...

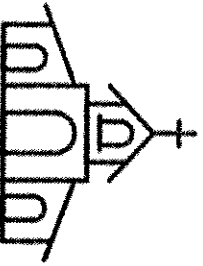
My favorite song from today was:

because...



Words or ideas that
I didn't understand are...

One thing I'll remember
from today's service is...





To contact Rev. Beth,
please call the Church Office at
508-697-6016
or e-mail her at:
csccpastor@hotmail.com.

*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 Deacon

Deb Sorgman – debsorgman@gmail.com

CSCC Care Team

Carol Chaffee

Phoebe Hogg

Bev Mitchell

John Scott

Rev. Beth Stotts

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 at: (www.cscucc.org).

If you have any questions, you can e-mail the Treasurer directly and in confidence at: treasurer@cscucc.com or call the Church Office at 508-697-6016.



"I felt like I was no longer Indian, but would be an imitation of the white man" Luther Standing Bear 1869

SEPT. 13, 2021 THEY TOOK OUR CHILDREN:

The Stories and Histories of Indigenous Residential/Boarding Schools

Taken from their homes, Native children were forced to have their hair cut, wear clothing unfamiliar to them, and forbidden to speak their languages or practice their ceremonies. Government policies under the guise of education sought to take away any trace of their cultures. These institutions were cruel and abusive places. Some children never made it home; others survived but lived with trauma.



Please join us
for a presentation and discussion
facilitated by
Dr. Joyce Rain Anderson
of Bridgewater State University
and supported by
Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights

**6:30-7:45 pm
September 13, 2021**

**What does it mean to be
"civilized"?**

**Why wear orange shirts
on September 30?**

**"I felt like I didn't matter"
(Phyliss Webstads)**

**Hosted by
The Native American
and Indigenous
Studies Program
at
Bridgewater State
University**

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<https://www.bridgewaterpubliclibrary.org/>

THANKSGIVING

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We Gather Together

*Netherlands folk hymn, 16th century
Transl. Theodore Baker, 1894
Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992*

- 1 We gath-er to-geth-er
to ask for God's bless-ing,
to live in com-mu-ni-ty,
seek-ing God's will.
We come now, as sis-ters
and broth-ers, con-fess-ing
the sins that di-vide
and the wrong in us still.
- 2 Be-side us, for-giv-ing,
en-a-bling, sus-tain-ing,
you call us, O Sav-ior,
to life that is new.
You draw us a-way
from self-cen-tered com-plain-ing.
You lead us and guide us
in ways that are true.
- 3 All praise to the Spir-it,
pro-vid-er, de-fend-er.
You of-fer us free-dom,
to fol-low or stray,
Em-pow-er-ing all by
the hope you en-gen-der.
Grant wis-dom and cour-age
to fol-low your way.

The original text of this hymn was one of thanksgiving for The Netherlands' independence from Spanish domination in the sixteenth century. It has been reinterpreted for contemporary congregations by United Church of Christ minister and writer Lavon Bayler.

Tune: KREMSER 12.11.12.11.
16th-century Dutch melody
Arr. Edward Kremser, 1877

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf, 1964

Descant




2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

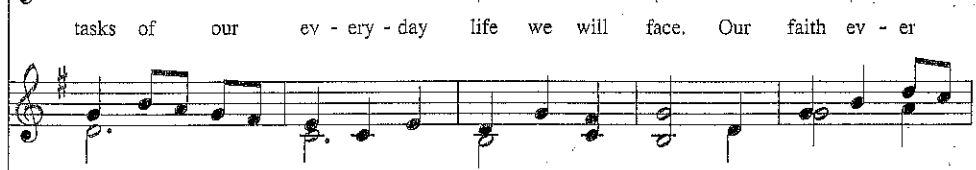
Unison



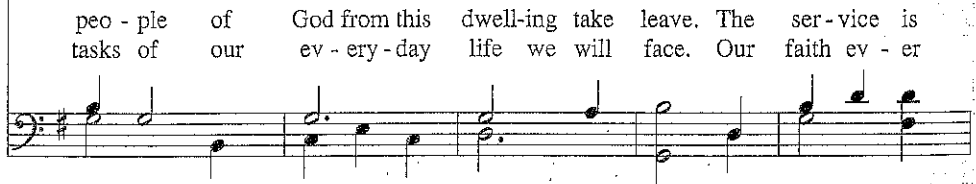
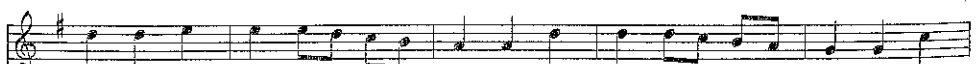
1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

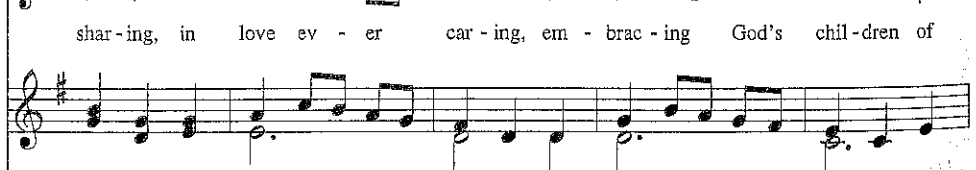
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er



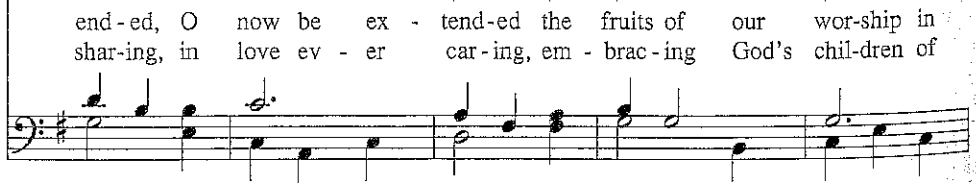
peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of



end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in
shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of



Omer Westendorf, author of numerous hymns, compiler of several hymnals, and founder of World Library Publications, included this hymn in *People's Mass Book*, 1964, the first vernacular Roman Catholic hymn and service book to implement the decrees of Vatican II.

Tune: THE ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11.D.
Welsh folk melody
Harm. Leland Sateren, 1972
Descant, *The New Century Hymnal*, 1993

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with
all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -
each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this
cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall bios - som in ac - tion for
your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -
God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -
life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.
nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.
giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.