



# 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."*

**August 9, 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://facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma)

**Check our Website:** [cscucc.org](http://cscucc.org)



## CSCC Staff

**Ministers:**

All the People!

**Pastor:**

Rev. Elizabeth Stotts – [csccpastor@hotmail.com](mailto:csccpastor@hotmail.com)

**Congregational Administrator:**

Ellen Atherton – [office@cscucc.com](mailto:office@cscucc.com)

**Minister of Music:**

Julia Scott Carey – [juliascottcarey@gmail.com](mailto:juliascottcarey@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:**

David Sheibley – [treasurer@cscucc.com](mailto:treasurer@cscucc.com)

**Sexton:**

Rich Sullivan

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Introit**

## **Call to Worship**

Turn your hearts to God, and know God's peace.  
Turn your minds to God, and know God's wisdom.  
Turn your lives to God, and live into righteousness.  
For the love of God is written in our hearts,  
And we know the way God has intended for us.  
Come, let us worship God.

## **Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-33**

*<sup>22</sup>Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup>And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup>And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. <sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." <sup>28</sup>Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup>He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup>When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup>And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*

## **Musical Meditation**

## **Prayer**

God of Presence, as you walked upon the water to meet the disciples,  
meet us in the midst of the storms in our lives.  
We confess that, like Peter, our faith sometimes wavers or falls away.  
We are tempted by the ways of this world, to put our trust in wealth and security.  
We are challenged by the injustice we experience,  
wondering where You are when there is so much suffering.  
We are tried by the struggles we have faced,  
of Covid-19 isolation, of racism, of state violence.

There is so much that is uncertain, perhaps more than we've ever experienced before.  
We ask you to restore our hearts, O God, to place our trust in You.  
Renew our hope, O God, to do what we can to bring hope to others.  
God of Renewal, as you lifted Peter from the water, lift us from despair to hope,  
from distraction to focus, from death to life.  
God of the Journey, direct us in your way,  
work out your purpose in and through our lives.  
We pray in the name of Christ who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Blessing & Assurance (from Psalm 85:8-13)**

Hear these words of scripture:

*<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.*

*<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.*

*<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.*

*<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.*

*<sup>12</sup>The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.*

*<sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.  
God works all things together for good, and God is working good in you, right now.  
You are forgiven, loved, and restored. Go in peace and serve God. Amen.*

### **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**

#### **Epistle Reading: Romans 10:5-15**

*<sup>5</sup>Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." <sup>6</sup>But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup>"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup>But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup>The scripture says, "No one who believes*

*in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” <sup>14</sup>But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? <sup>15</sup>And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”*

## **Musical Meditation**

## **Sermon**

## **Prayer**

God of Solitude, help us to find the quiet moments,  
away from fear, away from worry,  
away from all the thoughts running through our head.  
Help us to find that quiet space to focus on You, physically and mentally.  
Open our minds to the vastness of Your wisdom.  
Open our hearts to the fullness of Your love.  
Open our lives to make space for You,  
to clear out the clutter of the world and to focus our hearts and minds on Your ways,  
Your life that You have intended for us.  
Come close to us, drawing us out of the noise of the world  
and into the quiet peace of Your presence. Amen.

## **Closing Words**

## **Postlude**



**Have empty nickel-deposit bottles and cans piling up that could be redeemed?** *Consider cashing them in all through the month of August, and donating the money to Central Square Congregational Church!* Set up a jar on your counter, and every time you redeem your bottles and cans, just drop the cash in the jar. At the end of August, you'll have built up a nice little, and much needed, donation. You can even ask your family, friends, and neighbors to participate.

**Have kids? They can go to their neighborhood friends with their wagon and collect even more!** These funds will help with ongoing expenses that the church incurs even while the building is still closed, while also helping you to clear some clutter.

**You can drop a check in the mail anytime during the month of August**, payable to Central Square Church with "bottle redemption" in the memo line (71 Central Square, Bridgewater). Or, you can wait for our bottle and can donation day at the end of August and bring all the cash in your jar! **Stop by the side door on Church Street on Monday, August 31st any time between 9am and 12 noon (with your mask on, of course!) and drop off your cash or check donation through the window.**

Contact the church office at [office@cscucc.com](mailto:office@cscucc.com) or 508-697-6016 with questions.

*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](mailto:csccpastor@hotmail.com).

### **CSCC Deacons**

Deb Sorgman –  
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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).