

Sermon

*Hymn #570: *"We Shall Overcome"*

Prayers

Celebrations and Concerns (Conclude your prayer with the words
"This is my prayer." Congregation responds, *"This is our prayer".*)

Moment for Meditation and Reflection

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 Offering: *"Precious Lord Take My Hand"*
(This was Dr. King's favorite song)

Reading: *"Martin Luther King Jr., April 4, 1968"* Gwendolyn Brooks

*Closing Hymn #594: *"How Beautiful Our Spacious Skies"*

*Benediction

Postlude

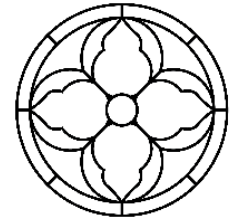
Phrases from the speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr. have been woven into the prayer texts. They are identified by italics. Texts of King's work are available in A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr., edited by James M. Washington; © 1986 Coretta Scott King. A brief essay on King's understanding of the term "Beloved Community" is available at <http://www.wilpf.org/mlksbelovedcommunity>.

Guest Artist: Bob Richards
Pianist and vocalist

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

71 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02324

*"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, January 15, 2023

*"Our goal is to create a beloved community
and this will require a qualitative change in our souls
as well as a quantitative change in our lives."*

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Please Note: This service is subject to change by the guidance of the Holy Spirit

* Denotes please rise in body and/or spirit.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Invitation to Fellowship (If you are new or visiting, please include your address, phone number, and e-mail address when you sign the fellowship pad at the end of the pew so that we may properly welcome you to our community.)

Introit #398: "Shadows and Substance"

*Call to Worship

One: God has made us to be One Body with many members.

All: United and uniting. This is our calling.

One: God calls us to share our diverse gifts activated by the one and same Spirit.

All: United and uniting. This is our redemption.

One: God longs for us to be united in love and to manifest the Spirit in our different ways.

All: United and Uniting. This is our worship.

One: Let us gather in this hour to offer praise and worship to our Holy God, who challenges us and calls us to create *the Beloved Community*.

*Prayer of Invocation

O God, all people are your Beloved, across races, nationalities, religions, sexual orientations and all the ways we are distinctive from one another. We are all manifestations of your image. *We are bound together in an inescapable network of mutuality and tied to a single garment of destiny.*

You call us into your unending work of justice, peace and love.

Let us know your presence among us now:

Let us delight in our diversity that offers glimpses of the mosaic of your beauty. Strengthen us with your steadfast love and transform our despairing fatigue into hope-filled action.

Under the shadow of your wings in this hour may we find rest and strength, renewal and hope.

We ask this, inspired by the example of your disciple, Martin Luther King, Jr., and in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #593:** "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Moment for All Ages

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 p.933

Prayer of Confession

One: O God, we long to co-create with you the Beloved Community which looks to the common good; privileges all equally, and creates societal systems which celebrate the humanity and the gifts of all.

All: And yet we focus on our differences, envy each other's gifts, devalue manifestations of you, O God, that are not like our own.

One: Perhaps our sin is a slow wait for justice:

All: We allow the voices of our siblings who do not look like us, love like us, or worship like us to be silenced.

We have told them to wait for freedom, justice and equality. We foster in them a denigrating sense of nobodiness.

God, have mercy.

One: Or perhaps we have kept silence ourselves in the face of their struggle for full human life.

All: For it is not solely hateful words and actions, but also appalling silence that follows the path of oppression. Christ, have mercy.

One: Perhaps our sin is to give in to weariness, discouragement, bitterness: You have called us to be *drum majors for justice, peace and righteousness*, Yet the work of peace and justice overwhelms us at times, To build with God the Beloved Community seems impossible, and we grow weary.

All: We cry, "Peace, peace," but there is no peace within us or around us. We find ourselves on the path of hatred and oppression, violence and war. Spirit, have mercy.

Assurance of God's Grace

***Hymn #395:** "In Christ There is No East or West"

Gospel Reading: John 1:29-42 p.862

Mustard Seeds

Prayer List of the People For the week of January 15, 2023

Please note: Prayer requests should be submitted by calling the Church Office at: (508) 697-6016 or by e-mail to: office@cscucc.com.

- Prayers for Philip Chaffee as he is experiencing some health issues. (1/12)
- Prayers for Norm Sorgman for health issues after collapsing several days ago, and for our healthcare system. After more than a day, Norm is still in the ER because there isn't a bed available to him. (1/8)
- Prayers of celebration for Mark and Sandra Madeiros on the birth of their daughter Evelyn. (1/8)
- Prayers for those who are victims of racial prejudice, and endure verbal attacks because of it, and specifically for Natalie Mosher's girlfriend, Jiseon. (1/8)
- Continued prayers for Gail Wright's son-in-law, Dan, and the entire Reardon family, as they mourn the loss of his mother and father. (1/3)
- Prayers of comfort and strength for the Boudreau family on the death of Ann Boudreau. (12/22)
- Prayers for Barbara Morey's brother in Florida, who has been diagnosed with multiple cancers and has suffered a stroke. (12/18)
- Prayers of health, healing, and courage for Judy Balzarini, friend of Kathleen Mosher, as she fights cancer. (12/11)
- Prayers of strength and recovery for Bob and Michelle, friends of Bill O'Neil, who both suffer from substance abuse. (12/11)
- Continued prayers for Diane & Peter Glass' great nephew Ben, who is still in a mental health facility and not doing well. Prayers that a long term facility for him will be found, and for strength and courage for him and his family. (12/11)
- Prayers for Bette DeKoning's brother and sister-in-law, who have both experienced serious heart issues recently. (12/11)
- Continued prayers of healing and strength for the family of Doug Anderson, formerly of the Bridgewater area and now living in Wisconsin. His grandson, James, is battling a cancerous spinal tumor, and is back in the hospital to start a difficult round of chemo. (12/11)
- We lift up in prayer and acknowledgement those that aren't among us -- friends and family that are struggling. We pray that they may be embraced by the love of God, and find peace and healing. (12/4)
- Prayers for action and words for the peaceful resolution of the violence in our country. (11/27)
- Prayers for Mary Barnsley's friend's mother, Robin, who is fighting brain cancer. (11/20)
- Prayers for Kimberly Davis who is recovering from surgery. (11/17)
- Prayers of healing for Rachel Lawson's brother Rubin, as he recovers from surgery.
- Continued prayers of healing and support for Mike Bundock as he begins a new, intensive round of treatment for brain cancer. (11/6)
- Prayers of understanding and acceptance for the family of Natalie Mosher's girlfriend, Jiseon. They have not been accepting of who she is and her relationship with Natalie. Prayers of love as well for Natalie and Jiseon.
- Prayers for friend Bonnie, who is struggling with stomach cancer and not doing well. (10/23)
- Prayers for members of Gloria Weinrebe's family who have experienced the passing of a family member; whose son was in a motorcycle accident; whose daughter-in-law has medical concerns that are keeping her from working; and for other family members facing medical issues. (9/25)
- Prayers for Gordon Brailsford's sister-in-law Ellie who suffered a stroke. (9/25)
- Celebrations for Tami Kurahara's medical good news, and continued prayers for her on her health journey. (8/28)

Continued prayers for all veterans and those serving on active duty in the military both in the United States and abroad.

DATES TO REMEMBER



Wednesday, January 18

Thrift Store open 10am – 1pm

(Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, January 18

Cabinet meeting 7pm

(Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, January 18

BSU Choir Rehearsal 7pm

(Sanctuary)

Thursday, January 19

Food Pantry open 10am – 1pm

Thursday, January 19

Staff Meeting 10 am

(Fireplace Room)

Saturday, January 21

Thrift Store open 10am – 1pm

(Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, January 22

Junior Choir Rehearsal 9:15am

(Sanctuary)

Sunday, January 22

Worship 10am

(Sanctuary)

Sunday, January 22

Constitution Revision group 11:15am

(Fireplace Room)

The church office will be open Tuesday – Friday from 9am-1pm. Please call 508-697-6016 to make an appointment or to speak with Rev. Beth. You can also contact Rev. Beth by email at csccpastor@hotmail.com.



venmo

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 Instagram: @centralsquarechurch

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma

Check our Website: www.cscucc.org

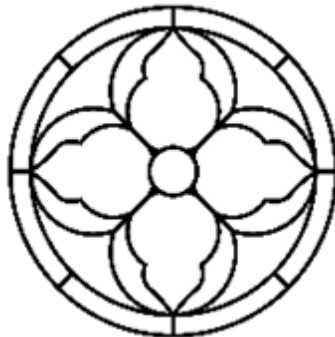
CSCC-UCC Staff and Officers

Ministers: All the People!
Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Stotts – csccpastor@hotmail.com
Minister of Music: Julia Scott Carey
Director of Video Evangelism: Paul Holmes
Receptionist: Jenne Foronjy
Moderator: Anne Malmquist
Vice Moderator: Denise Molinari
Clerk: Diane Sheibley
Treasurer: David Sheibley
Asst. Treasurer: Larry Brown
Financial Secretary: Judy Pino
Sexton: Rich Sullivan

To contact the Church Office:

E-mail: office@cscucc.com

Phone: 508-697-6016



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 Instagram: @centralsquarechurch

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/cscuccbridgewaterma

Check our Website: www.cscucc.org

CSCC-UCC Staff and Officers

Ministers: All the People!
Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Stotts – csccpastor@hotmail.com
Minister of Music: Julia Scott Carey
Director of Video Evangelism: Paul Holmes
Receptionist: Jenne Foronjy
Moderator: Anne Malmquist
Vice Moderator: Denise Molinari
Clerk: Diane Sheibley
Treasurer: David Sheibley
Asst. Treasurer: Larry Brown
Financial Secretary: Judy Pino
Sexton: Rich Sullivan

To contact the Church Office:

E-mail: office@cscucc.com

Phone: 508-697-6016

