*Closing Hymn #190:

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

*Benediction

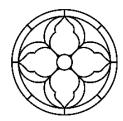
Postlude

"Fantasia on a Theme" Thomas Tallis Ralph Vaughn Williams

Central Square Congregational Church, UCC

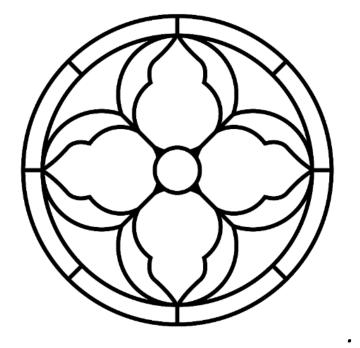
71 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02324

"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, February 26, 2023 First Sunday of Lent/Blessing of the Stuffies



Please Note: This service is subject to change by the guidance of the Holy Spirit * *Denotes please rise in body and/or spirit.*

Prelude"Resting Place on the Hill"Aaron Copeland

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.)

Choral Introit: *"Lenten Kyrie" (call and response)*

*Call to Worship

- One: After He was baptized by John, Jesus went by Himself to the wilderness where He was tempted. Today, we begin to journey with Jesus through the season of Lent, which brings us to face some of our own weaknesses and temptations.
- All: Let us worship God and walk the journey together, Seeking the spirit as our guide and companion along the way.

*Opening Hymn #195: "On a Hill Far Away"

*Prayer of Invocation and Confession

God, you are our hiding place and our refuge in the time of distress. We turn to you now, seeking comfort from the wounds of the world and power to face all our afflictions. Creative, passionate God,

You invite us to participate in the balance of creation. We grow in wisdom as our experience unfolds;

we take good learning out of difficult situations yet also find our well-meant endeavors leading to unintended consequences.

Too often we give in to temptation

that disrupts the joyous, chaotic order of the universe. We cannot undo all our mistakes,

but we can turn once more to the living presence of Jesus and find new ways to live and love each other and the earth. Be with us as we offer you the silent confessions of our hearts...

Assurance of God's Grace

Leader: Our God prepares a way for us to be connected to the earth and to the living presence of God. In Christ's life, ministry, death and resurrection, we are made able to persist, upright and strong, for we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

Junior Choir: "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

The Blessing of the Stuffies

Anthem:	"Shall We Gather By the River"	
	Aaron Co	opeland
Gospel Reading:	Matthew 4:1-11	p.785
Scripture Reading:	Psalm 32	p.440

*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.

Sermon	"Journey or Quest?"	
*Hymn #197:	"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"	
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.
Prayer Response "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Thomas Tallis

Mustard Seeds Prayer List of the People For the week of February 26, 2023

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

• Prayers of healing and health for our dear Food Pantry worker Pat Conn (2/21)

• Prayers for the family of Ian Johnstone as they grieve his death. (2/21)

• Prayers of healing for Lynn Pietras who fell last Wednesday while working at the Thrift Shop and broke her arm. (2/19)

• John Schuller reported that Lin is now living in a memory care unit, and they are both very appreciative for all who have sent cards, visited, and expressed their support. (2/19)

• 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, continues to battle a cancerous spinal tumor, and while he continues to face chemo and radiation therapies, the doctors are optimistic after a long surgery recently to remove tumors. (2/19)

• Continued prayers and good wishes for the Ciaramitaro family, who is travelling in Florida. (2/19)

• Prayers for Barbara Morey and Annie Blanchard, and their family, on the loss of their brother, following diagnosis of multiple cancers and a stroke. (2/12)

• Prayers for all those in Turkey and Syria affected by the devastating earthquake. (2/12)

• Prayers for our friend John who has not been well. (2/12)

• Continued prayers for Tami Kurahara, who has had her surgery and is doing well, and who deeply appreciates all the prayers and good thoughts. (2/12)

• Prayers for all those affected by the opioid crisis, and specifically for Ellen Crawford's co-worker, who recently lost her brother. (2/12)

• Prayers of thanks from Terry Reynolds for all those who reached out with kind words following the passing of her brother. (2/12)

• Prayers for Denise Molinari's neighbor, Ed, and his family. Ed has been battling cancer and was recently put on hospice. (2/12)

• Continued prayers for Mark Sorgman's brother, Todd, who is doing well following his stroke and is recovering at home. (1/29)

• Continued prayers for Diane & Peter Glass' great nephew Ben who suffers with mental health issues but was sent home because there isn't a longterm facility available to him in Connecticut. Prayers also for Ben's father, Noah, who is working to find an appropriate living and care situation for Ben, and for our healthcare system that struggles to provide for those in need. (1/15)

• Prayers for Norm Sorgman as he continues to recover from heart surgery. (1/15)

• 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)

• Prayers of comfort and strength for Jenne Foronjy and her sisters as they come to terms with the profound loss of their mother, together with the ongoing struggles of their individual situations. (12/13)

• 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)

• Prayers for Bette DeKoning's brother and sister-in-law, who have both experienced serious heart issues recently. (12/11)

• 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 Bonnie, friend of Steve Boudreau, 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)



Wednesday, March 1	Thrift Store open 10am – 1pm (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday, March 1	Women's Guild 6:30 – 8:30pm (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday, March 1	BSU Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm (Sanctuary)
Thursday, March 2	Food Pantry open 10am – 1pm
Saturday, March 4	Thrift Store open 10am – 1pm (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday, March 4	Youth Group Archery Event 12 noon (Reedy's Archery, Middleboro)
Sunday, March 5	Breakfast 9am (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday, March 5	Jr. Choir Rehearsal 9:15am (Sanctuary)
Sunday, March 5	Worship w/Communion 10am (Sanctuary)
Sunday, March 5	Pronoun Project Discussion 11:30am (Sanctuary)

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



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/csccuccbridgewaterma Check our Website: www.csccucc.org

CSCC-UCC Staff and Officers

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Director of Video Evangelism:	Paul Holmes	
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To contact the Church Office:

E-mail: office@csccucc.com Phone: 508-697-6016