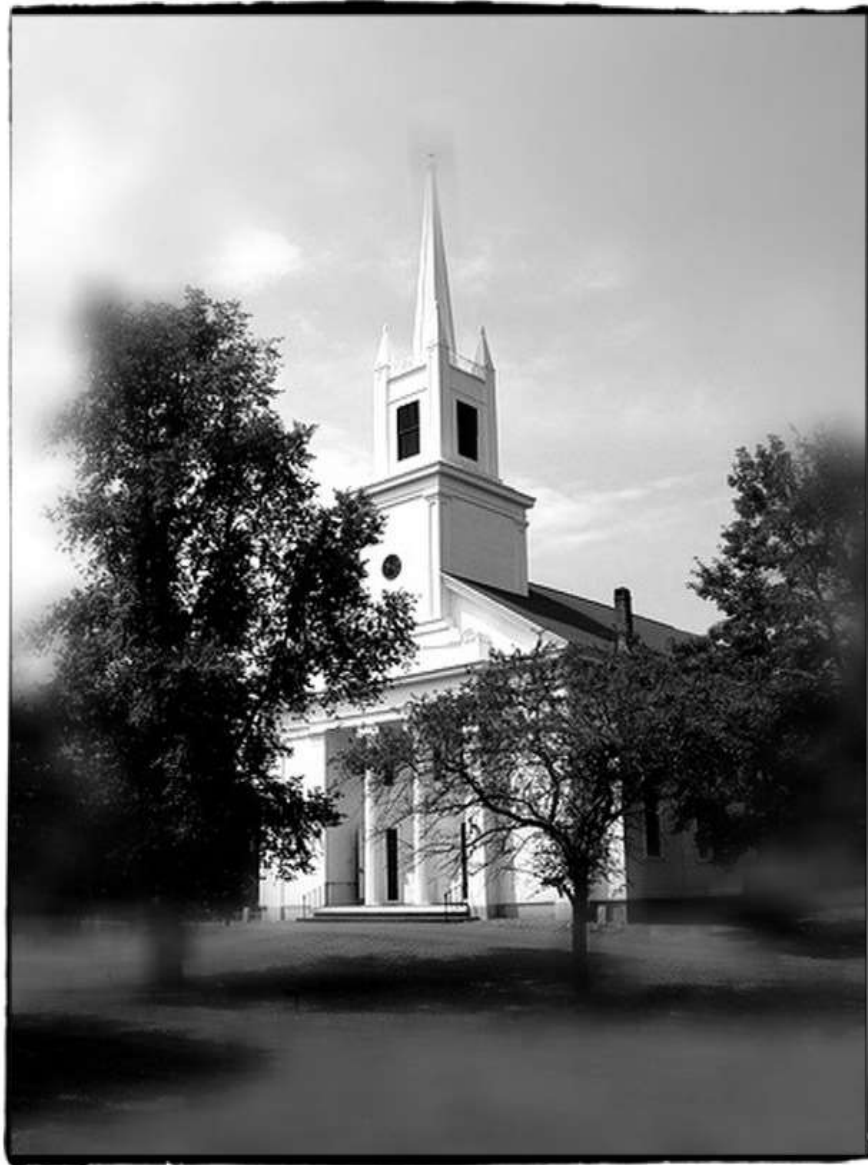


# The Congregational Church *of* Topsfield

*An Open and Affirming Congregation  
of  
the United Church of Christ*



The Congregational Church of Topsfield, *An Open and Affirming Congregation of the UCC*  
9 East Common St. Topsfield, MA. 01983 Church Office: 978-887-2101 Website: [www.topsfieldchurch.org](http://www.topsfieldchurch.org)  
Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License # A-731893. All Rights Reserved .CVLI (Christian Video Licensing International)  
License No. 504290995 for copyright compliance.



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**JUNE 29, 2025**  
**9:30 am**

PRELUDE "Ashokan Farewell" Jay Unger/Molly Mason

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Martin Riekert

GREETINGS FROM SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE, UCC Rev. Katie Omberg

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

OPENING HYMN "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" HYMN TO JOY  
HYMN #2 (CH) View page 5, verses 1- 4

UNISON GATHERING PRAYER: Lay Reader, James Love Jr.

**Loving God, source of compassion and wellspring of justice, we enter into this service longing to be focused on what has ultimate worth. Gather us into your Spirit and awaken us anew to the beauty of life when we walk in peace. Speak to us and let us hear words of healing from our sacred text. Shatter prejudice and boundaries in our minds and practice and make us one. Enable our voices to bear witness to one another in this gathering and to the world when we leave. May this service of farewell and release be a time of celebration and deep gratitude for our shared journey. May we covenant anew to walk in truth and to embody the Spirit of Christ. Amen.**

SHARING OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY "Hallelujah" William Walker

†THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him\* all creatures here below; praise Him\* above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost\*\* Amen**

\*You may substitute God/Her \*\*You may substitute Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANTHEM "Help Us Accept Each Other" John Ness Beck

SCRIPTURE Genesis 31: 45-55 Lay Reader, James Love Jr.  
View page 4

## Scripture Reading: Genesis 31: 45-55 (NRSVUE)

<sup>45</sup> So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. <sup>46</sup> And Jacob said to his kinsfolk, “Gather stones,” and they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap. <sup>47</sup> Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha,<sup>[a]</sup> but Jacob called it Galeed.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>48</sup> Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me today.” Therefore he called it Galeed <sup>49</sup> and the pillar<sup>[c]</sup> Mizpah, for he said, “The LORD watch between you and me, when we are absent one from the other. <sup>50</sup> If you ill-treat my daughters or if you take wives in addition to my daughters, though no one else is with us, remember that God is witness between you and me.”

<sup>51</sup> Then Laban said to Jacob, “See this heap and see the pillar, which I have set between you and me. <sup>52</sup> This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass beyond this heap to you, and you will not pass beyond this heap and this pillar to me, for harm. <sup>53</sup> May the God of Abraham and the God of Nahor<sup>[d]</sup> judge between us.” So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac, <sup>54</sup> and Jacob offered a sacrifice on the height and called his kinsfolk to eat bread, and they ate bread and tarried all night in the hill country.

<sup>55</sup> <sup>[e]</sup>Early in the morning Laban rose up and kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them; then he departed and returned home.

SERMON

“Always and Never About Us”

Rev. Martin Riekert

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Debts)

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

\*You may substitute Creator/Mother/Maker, etc. as you choose in saying the prayer.

LITURGY OF RELEASE

(See insert)

GIFTS FROM THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Ruth Bortzfield

CLOSING HYMN  
HYMN #489 (CH)

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”  
View page 6, verses 1-3

BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR

SOLO

“May Our God Watch Between Us”  
View page 7

Jackson Carruthers  
ASHOKAN FAREWELL

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“This Train”

Sister Rosetta Tharpe

## 2 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*Descant*

4. Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus; stars of morn-ing, take your part;

1. Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore thee, God of glo-ry, Lord of love;  
 2. All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re-lect thy rays,  
 3. Thou art giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blest,  
 4. Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho-rus; stars of morn-ing, take your part;

love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, bind-ing those of ten-der heart. So  
 hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore thee, open-ing to the sun a-bove.  
 stars and an-gels sing a-round thee, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.  
 well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean depth of hap-py rest!  
 love di-vine is reign-ing o'er us, bind-ing those of ten-der heart.

sing-ing, move we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife;

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive our fear and doubt a-way;  
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flow-ery mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
 Thou our Fa-ther, Christ our Broth-er, all who live in love are thine;  
 Ev-er sing-ing, move we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife,

joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re-joice in thee.  
 teach us how to love each oth-er, lift us to the joy di-vine.  
 joy-ful mu-sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

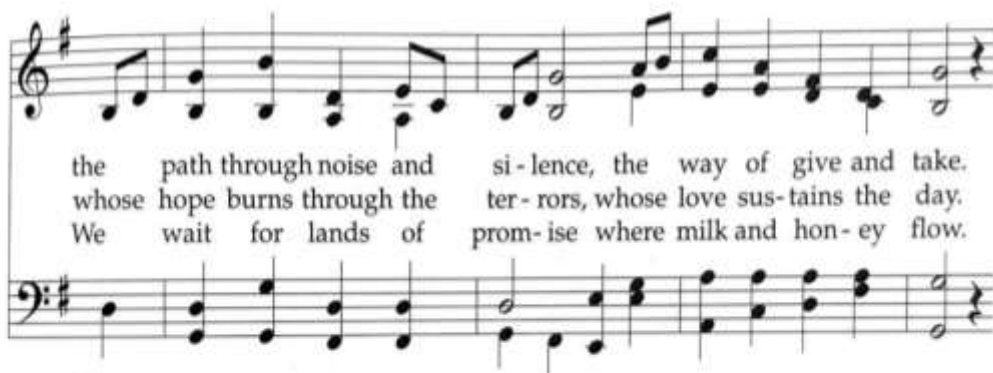
VERSES 1-3

# Bless Now, O God, the Journey 489

*Unison*

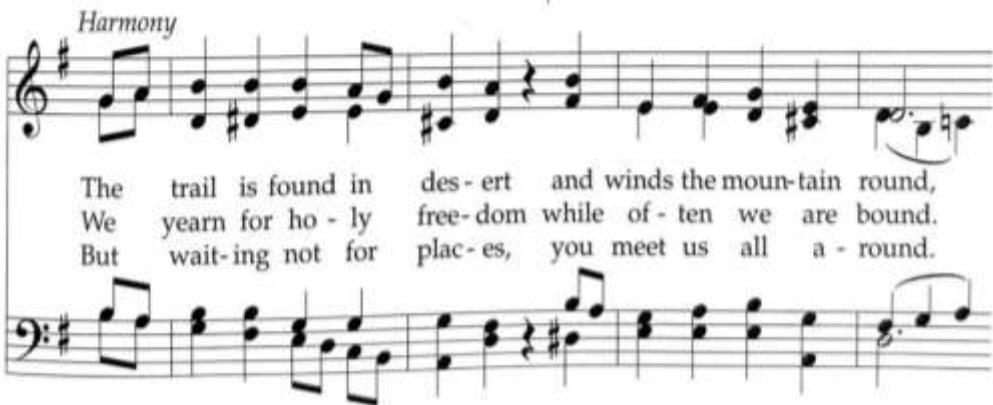


1. Bless now, O God, the jour-ney that all your peo-ple make,  
 2. Bless so-journ-ers and pil-grims who share this wind-ing way,  
 3. Di-vine E-ter-nal Lov-er, you meet us on the road.



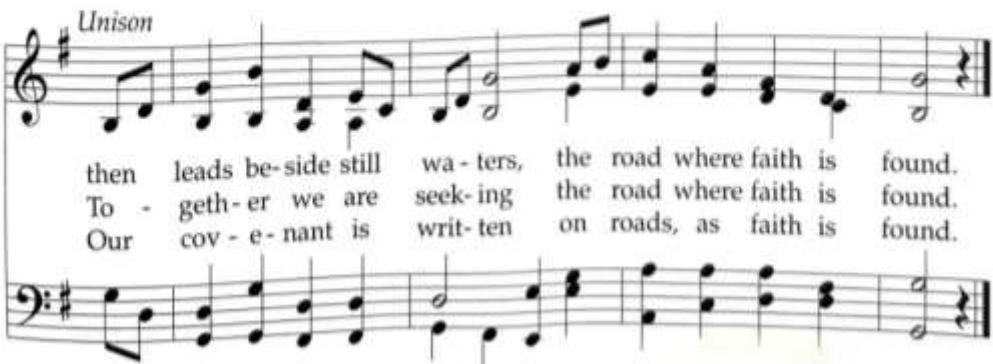
the path through noise and si-lence, the way of give and take.  
 whose hope burns through the ter-rors, whose love sus-tains the day.  
 We wait for lands of prom-ise where milk and hon-ey flow.

*Harmony*



The trail is found in des-ert and winds the moun-tain round,  
 We yearn for ho-ly free-dom while of-ten we are bound.  
 But wait-ing not for plac-es, you meet us all a-round.

*Unison*



then leads be-side still wa-ters, the road where faith is found.  
 To-geth-er we are seek-ing the road where faith is found.  
 Our cov-e-nant is writ-ten on roads, as faith is found.

May Our God Watch Between Us 440  
(Mizpah Benediction)

*Unison*

May our God watch be - tween us un -

til we meet one an - oth - er a - gain.

The image shows a musical score for a unison song. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.



**The Melling family, parents, grandparents, sister, cousins, aunt and uncle are giving today's sanctuary flowers in loving memory of Avery Melling whose 18<sup>th</sup> birthday would have been celebrated on June 28<sup>th</sup>.**

# Congregational Church of Topsfield

## Parish Care Ministry

### Prayer List Contact:

Kim Itz at [prayerlisting@topsfieldchurch.org](mailto:prayerlisting@topsfieldchurch.org) or 978 887-6567.

### Healing Scripture:

"And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick ....." Matthew 14:14

### Healing Prayer:

Dear Lord, I ask you to turn this weakness into strength, suffering into compassion, sorrow into joy, and pain into comfort for others. May your servant trust in your goodness and hope in your faithfulness, even in the middle of this suffering. Let him be filled with patience and joy in your presence as he waits for your healing touch.

### Please Pray For:

Doug McIlvaine - Member of CCOT  
Jane Moyer - Member of CCOT  
Diana Titus - Member of CCOT  
Cheryl Hopkins - Member of CCOT  
Joyce Talbot - Member of CCOT  
Abby Bowling - Member of CCOT  
Susan Gruber - Member of CCOT  
Dennis Heslet- Member of CCOT  
Jane Jones - Member of CCOT  
Larry Atkins - Member of CCOT  
Fred Parker - Member of CCOT  
Jacob Itz - Son of Kim & Charlie Itz  
David Muise & Family- Family of Kim Itz  
Jack Whelan - Brother of Steve Whelan  
Doug Gruber - Brother of Susan Gruber  
Mark Gosbee - Son of Judi & Gary Gosbee  
Roger Talbot - Husband of Joyce Talbot  
Lynn Barnes - Sister in law of Jim Barnes  
Jim Quinlivan- Dad of Julie Quinlivan  
Chloe - Great-great-niece of Diana Titus  
Phil and Marilyn Knowles - Parents of Scott Knowles  
Kevin Goldenbogen - Former Youth Leader at CCOT

Trish Hudson - Former member of CCOT  
Maria Cecilia Guerra - Sister of José Guerra  
Eva - Friend of Irina Günzel-Guerra from Norway  
Andrea Sommer & Family - Relatives of Irina Günzel Guerra  
Sean Enos - Son of neighbor of Jane & Bruce Jones  
Bobby Duchano - Friend of Charles Mathison  
GML - Friend of Judi & Gary Gosbee  
Phil Sinaikin - Friend of Christa & Martin Riekert  
Rick Anderson - Friend of CCOT  
Kay - Family friend of Ellie Losee  
Pete - Friend of Charlotte & Duane Melling  
Nancy Woolford - Friend of CCOT  
Margie & Vince Castellanet - Neighbors of Jane & Bruce Jones  
Kathy - Friend of Meg Moran  
Nancy - Friend of Julie Quinlivan

Sending our prayers of love and sympathy to Guido Voss and family as they mourn the loss of Guido's mom.

