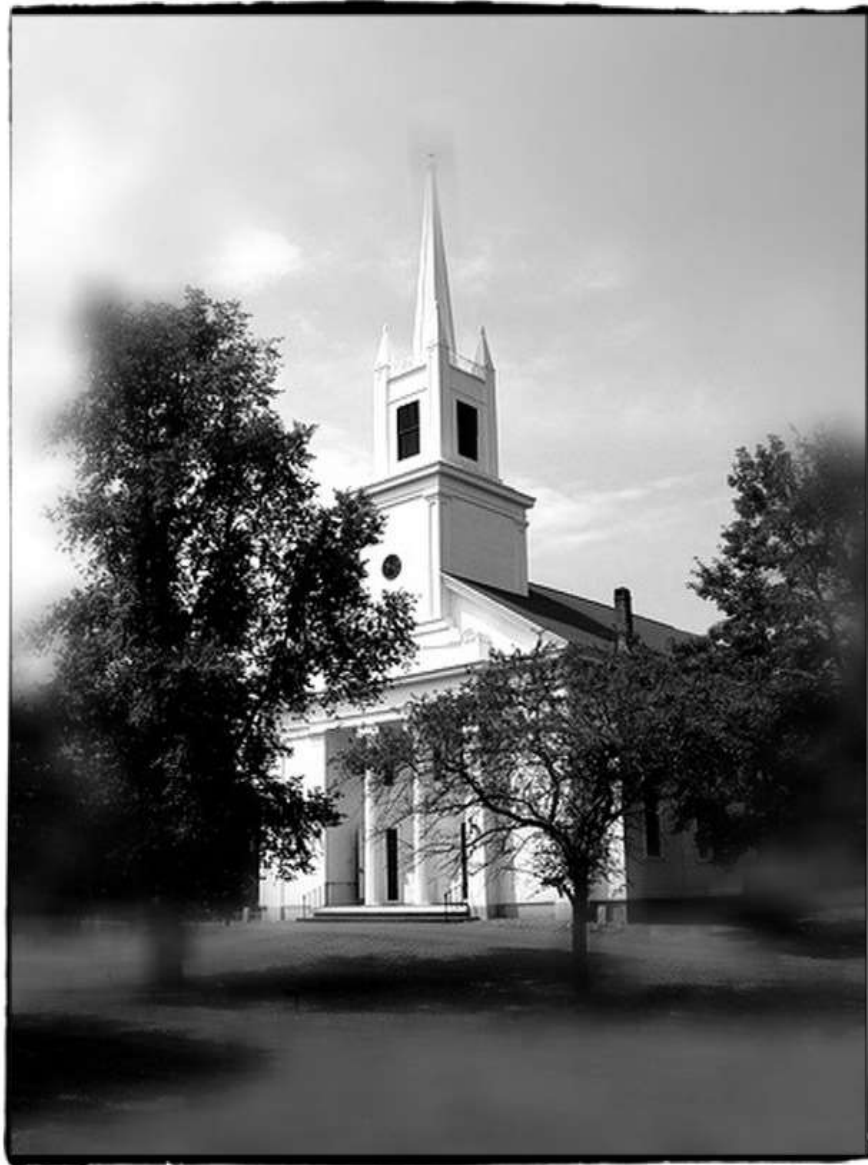


The Congregational Church *of* Topsfield

*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
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ORDER OF WORSHIP
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
AUGUST 10, 2025
9:30 am

PRELUDE "Pisgah" Watts/Lowry

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. David VanArsdale

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

OPENING HYMN "Morning Has Broken" BUNESSAN
HYMN #145 (MH) View page 6, all verses

CALL TO WORSHIP: Lay Reader, Conny Griesshammer

Leader: Gather round, with your aches and pains, may we gather together.

People: Come from near and far, come open and expectant,
create a symphony of praise, a bouquet of joy,
and pray that God will weave us into: A people of compassion,
a community of prayer, a family of care.

Leader: Come, gather round. Hear God's Word, be challenged to serve, and raise a voice in song.

OPENING PRAYER IN UNISON:

**It was faith which made them listen to your words,
trust in your promises, dare to imagine a different country,
risk undertaking new adventures, setting aside their fears and doubts.
Give us such faith, God of our ancestors, give us such faith.**

**It is faith which you give to us:
so we can trust the hope which the world cannot see;
so we can journey into places we have never been;
so we can welcome strangers as sisters and brothers.
Continue to give us such faith, Spirit who walks with us
in faith, every moment, every day. Amen.**

SHARING OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY "Shall We Gather at the River" Robert Lowry

†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

Scripture Reading:**Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

11 Now faith is the assurance^[a] of things hoped for, the conviction^[b] of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith^[c] our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.^[d]

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered^[a] him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

SERMON

"Life is Difficult But..."

Rev. Dr. David VanArsdale

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.

CLOSING HYMN
HYMN #68 (MH)

“When in Our Music God Is Glorified”
View page 7, verses 1, 4, and 5

ENGELBERG

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“All Night, All Day”

Swan Silvertones

Looking Ahead to Next Sunday, August 17, 2025...

Summertime is a great time of the year as we venture out into God’s creation and wonder. Come next Sunday thinking about the wonder and awe that you are seeing where you walk, where you drive, where you sit and just watch.

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

Theme: *A Sense of Awe* ... Dr. David L. Van Arsdale, Preaching

ALL VERSES

Morning Has Broken

145

Unison
C Am Dm G F C

1. Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en,
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

Am Em/G F Em Dm G

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
born of the one light E - den saw play!

C F C Am Dm/F

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

D7/F# C/G F G7 C

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

VERSES 1, 4. 5

68 When in Our Music God Is Glorified

Unison

1. When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied,
 2. How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found
 3. So has the church in lit - ur - gy and song,
 4. And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night
 5. Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise!

and ad - o - ra - tion leaves no room for pride,
 a new di - men - sion in the world of sound,
 in faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,
 when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the light?
 Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise!

it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried
 as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found
 borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tongue,
 Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
 And may God give us faith to sing al - ways

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Congregational Church of Topsfield

Parish Care Ministry

Prayer Listing Contact:

Kim Itz at: prayerlisting@topsfeldchurch.org

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 servants trust in your goodness and hope in your faithfulness, even in the middle of this suffering. Let all be filled with patience and joy in your presence as they wait 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
Phyllis Heslet - Member of CCOT
Jane Jones - Member of CCOT
Fred Parker - Member of CCOT
Alan Denton - 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
Jeff Nenart - Husband of Carolyn Nenart
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
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
Linda VanArsdale - Daughter-in-Law of Dave VanArsdale, Bridge Minister of CCOT

Sending our prayers of love and sympathy to Doug McIlvaine and family as they mourn the loss of his Mom, Nance Proctor.

Sending our prayers of love and sympathy to Leslie Voss and family as they mourn the loss of her Mom, Beverly Schmidt.

