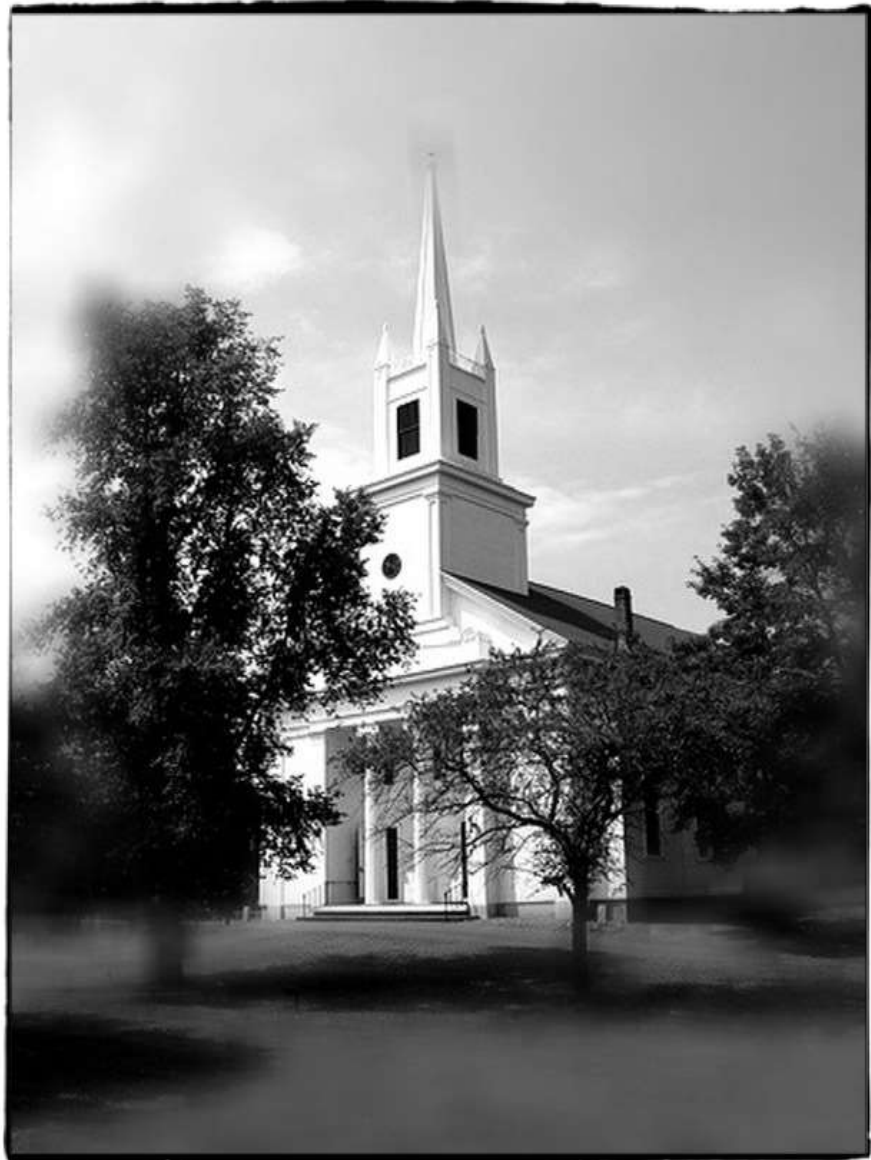


The Congregational Church *of* Topsfield

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



**ORDER OF WORSHIP
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 26, 2023
9:30 am**

Mask wearing in the Meetinghouse during worship is voluntary, participants in worship may choose to mask at any time.

PRELUDE "Open My Eyes, That I May See" Clara Scott

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Martin Riekert

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

LENTEN REFLECTION AND CANDLE LIGHTING: Deb Baker

OPENING HYMN "Creator God, Creating Still" ST. ANNE
Hymn #62 (CH) View page 4, Verses 1-4

RESPONSIVE CENTERING PRAYER: Lay Reader, John Szymanski

Leader: Friends, we are holders of a common thread;
the thread of priceless grace that winds creatively in, and around us all.
Often it feels golden, unbreakable;
at other times, it looks tarnished and frayed,
to the unthinkable point of shredding apart
through antipathy – distrust, of one another.

**All: We come, therefore, to be stilled, to listen deeply,
to create room for another voice, another presence
– beyond and before our own –
to reorient and lift us in perspective and heart,
instilling lasting grace, peace and hope.**

- Sean Gilbert 2012

SHARING OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY "Restoration" Southern Harmony

†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

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 11: 17-34 Lay Reader, John Szymanski
View bottom of page 3

ANTHEM "Weeping Mary" and "Peace and Joy" McCurry/Power & Bowring/Benson

SERMON "Unlike Making Sausage" 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.

CLOSING HYMN
Hymn #575 (CH)

“Come and Find the Quiet Center”
View page 5, Verses 1-3

BEACH SPRING

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Beach Spring”

B.F. White

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11: 17-34 (NRSVUE)

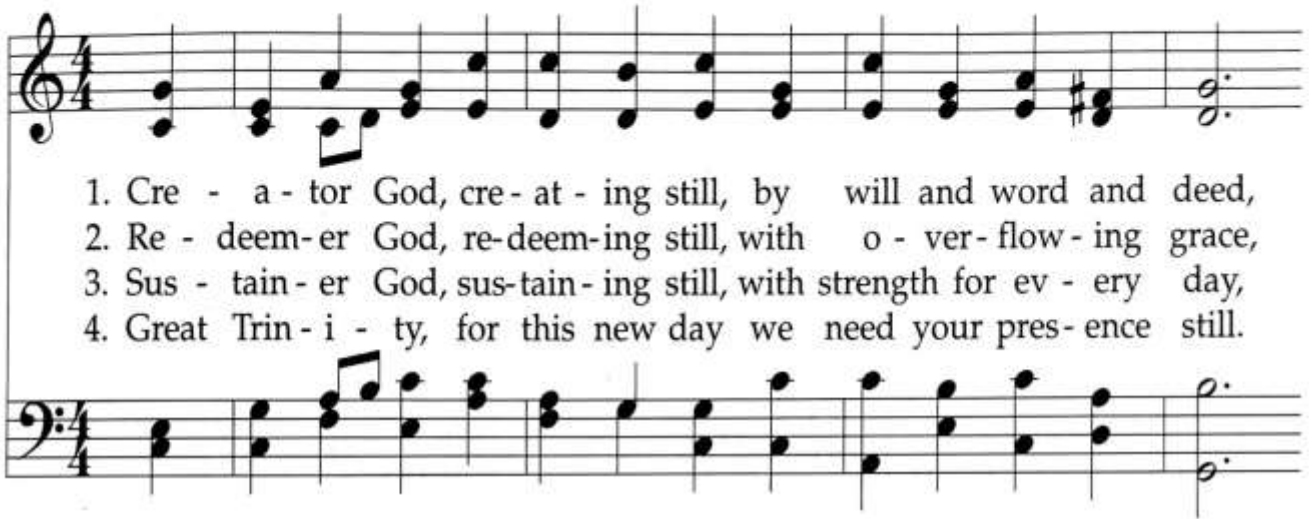
¹⁷ Now in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For, to begin with, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹ Indeed, there have to be factions among you, for only so will it become clear who among you are genuine. ²⁰ When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. ²¹ For when the time comes to eat, each of you proceeds to eat your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk. ²² What! Do you not have households to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you!

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for^[a] you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

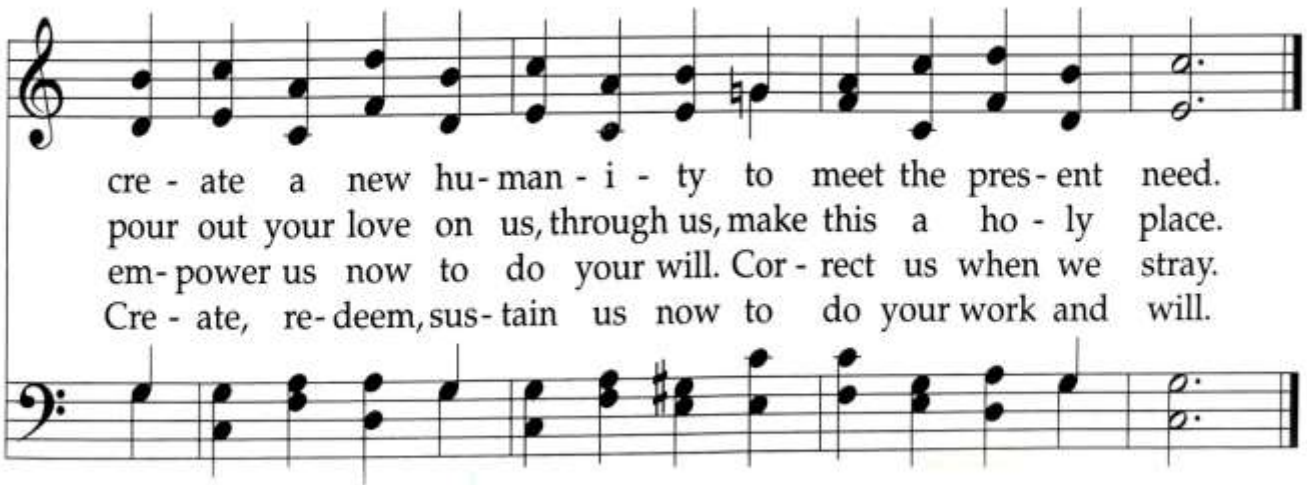
²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For all who eat and drink^[b] without discerning the body^[c] eat and drink judgment against themselves. ³⁰ For this reason many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.^[d] ³¹ But if we judged ourselves, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined^[e] so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

³³ So then, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ If you are hungry, eat at home,^[f] so that when you come together, it will not be for your condemnation. About the other things I will give instructions when I come.

Creator God, Creating Still



1. Cre - a - tor God, cre - at - ing still, by will and word and deed,
 2. Re - deem - er God, re - deem - ing still, with o - ver - flow - ing grace,
 3. Sus - tain - er God, sus - tain - ing still, with strength for ev - ery day,
 4. Great Trin - i - ty, for this new day we need your pres - ence still.



cre - ate a new hu - man - i - ty to meet the pres - ent need.
 pour out your love on us, through us, make this a ho - ly place.
 em - power us now to do your will. Cor - rect us when we stray.
 Cre - ate, re - deem, sus - tain us now to do your work and will.

LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP

575 Come and Find the Quiet Center

Unison F B \flat C7

1. Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we
 2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the
 3. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's

F F B \flat

lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the
 pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our
 pain, let our loves and fears unravel, celestial

C7 F Am7

frame where we are freed: clear the chaos and the
 being, touches base, making space within our
 brate the space we gain: there's a place for deepest

Dm Am7 Dm Am7 B \flat (C7)

clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the
 thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, raising
 dreaming, there's a time for heart to care, in the

F B \flat C7 F

things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.
 courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.
 Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

Congregational Church of Topsfield

Parish Care Ministry

Prayer List Contact:

Kim Itz at prayerlisting@topsfeldchurch.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:

Maria Cecilia Guerra - Sister of José Guerra

Eva - Friend of Irina Günzel-Guerra from Norway

Doug McIlvaine - Member of CCOT

Edward & Memory Matavhunye & their community - President of the UCC in Zimbabwe

Doug Gruber - Brother of Susan Gruber

Paul Rogers - Father of Tony Rogers

Jane Moyer - Member of CCOT

Ralph & Diana Titus - Members of CCOT

Sean Enos - Son of neighbor of Jane & Bruce Jones

Rich and Cheryl Hopkins - Members of CCOT

Chuck Schwab - Friend of Charles Mathison

Brett Hoover - Grandson of Fred & Carole Hoover

Mark Gosbee - Son of Judi & Gary Gosbee

Roberto Chong - Uncle of Kim Love

John & Laurie Rowen - Friends of Cathy

Imboden, Mary Jelinek & Sue Panella

Sally Garnett - Sister of Cathy Imboden

Fred Hoover - Member of CCOT

Paul Worth - Husband of Claudia Worth

The Muise Family - Family of Kim Itz

Willem Combrinck – Friend of Martin & Christa in New Zealand

Jennifer Smith – Friend of Martin & Christa in Vermont

Bill Rhyne - Husband of Kathy Rhyne

Trish Hudson - Former member of CCOT

Dan Cassiday - Husband of Jackie Cassiday

Kathy Mscisz - Friend of Dolly McIlvaine

Kurt Nakanishi - Son of friend of Judi Gosbee

Connor Rebbick - Roommate of Brandon Read

Jean Jones Valentine - Sister of Bruce Jones

Our prayers of sympathy and love are with the family of Ken Flewelling who passed away on March 14th.

Our prayers of sympathy and love are with Ken Talberth and family as they mourn the loss of his mother Helen Talberth who passed away on Sunday March 19th.



Easter Plant Orders Order Today!!

Please help glorify our Easter Sunday worship service with colorful, springtime Easter plants by placing an order. The cost for each plant is **\$10.00**. Lilies, tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths are available.

The last date to order is: **Sunday, April 2nd, Palm Sunday.**

Flowers remaining at the church will be taken to the sick and shut-ins or remain to beautify the chancel, so please be sure to indicate if you intend to take the flowers on Easter Sunday. Please feel free to contact Ruth Bortzfield at: ruthbortzfield@gmail.com if you have any questions.

TO ORDER:

- Mail order form and payment to: Ruth Bortzfield, 22 Great Hill Drive, Topsfield, MA. 01983.
- Place in envelope in offering plate, labeled "Easter Flowers".
- Contact Ruth at: 978-317-6350

Please make checks payable to the Congregational Church of Topsfield

Your Name (as you would like it to appear in the dedication booklet)

Dedication (in memory, celebration of, etc) **if left blank, dedication will read "in memory of loved ones."*

____ Easter Lily ____ Tulip ____ Daffodil ____ Hyacinth

I ____ will ____ will not take the plant(s) after the Easter service.

Number of plants: _____ Amount enclosed \$_____

Thank you for your support!

The Congregational Church of Topsfield
March Birthdays 3/27 - 3/30



Larry Atkins	3/27
Daniel McIlvaine	3/27
Priscilla Renda	3/29
Stuart Bowling	3/30

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

We're looking for April hosts!
4/16 and 4/23

If you can volunteer, please email:
Nancy Nelson
at: nbnelson21@gmail.com



*Thank you to our Coffee Hour volunteers, Ellie and Walt Losee,
for providing Coffee Hour after service today in the Emerson Center Fellowship Hall.
Hope to have you join us!*

SERVING THIS MORNING

Polly Croteau, Carolyn Detato
John Szymanski
Robert Knutsen
Steve Hall

*Altar Guild
Lay Reader
Head Usher
Usher*

Senior Minister

Martin Riekert, 978-887-2101
martin@topsfieldchurch.org

Communications & Office Manager

Kim Love, 978-887-2101
kimlove@topsfieldchurch.org

Music Director and Organist

Jackson Carruthers, 978-887-2101
jackson@topsfieldchurch.org

Joyful Noises Preschool

Yvonne Beirne, 978-848-2018
joyfulnoisestopsfield@gmail.com

The Congregational Church of Topsfield
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the UCC
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