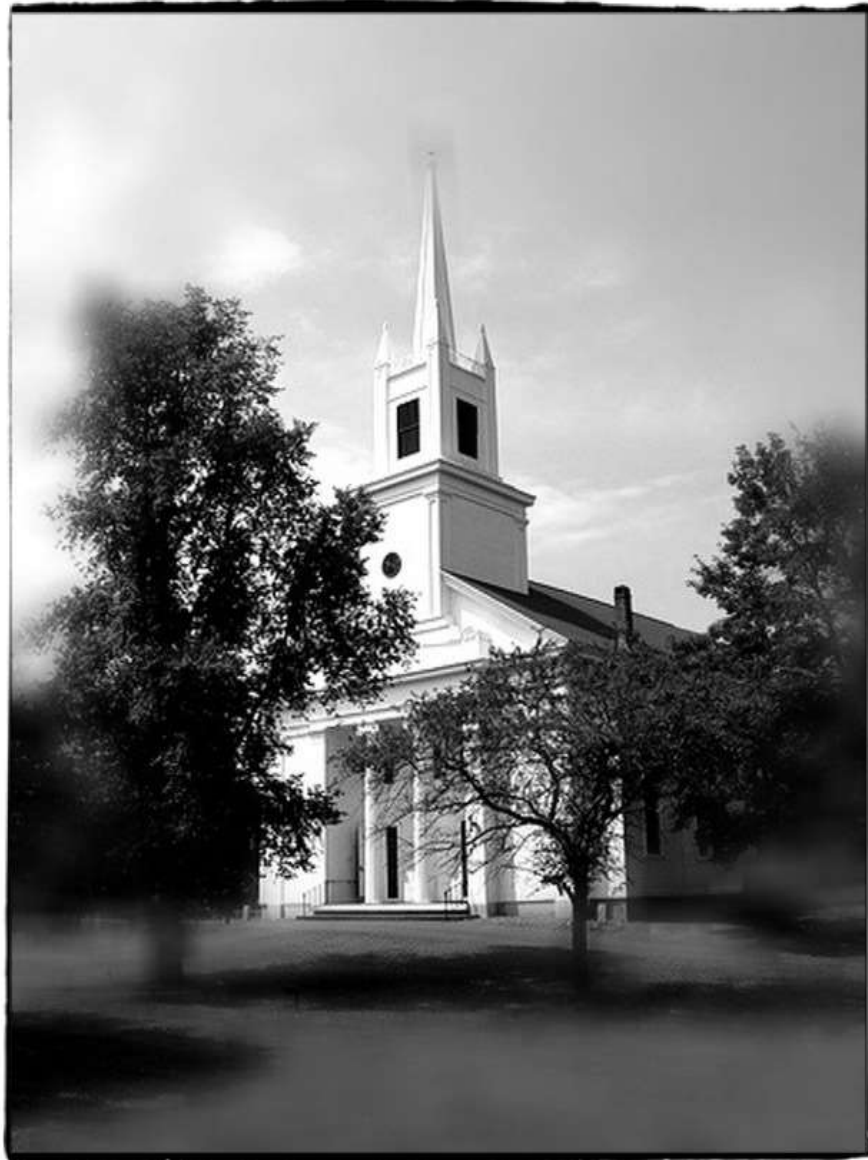


The Congregational Church
of
Topsfield

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
EARTH DAY SUNDAY
APRIL 21, 2024
9:30 am

PRELUDE "Holy Manna" William Moore

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Jack Soper

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

OPENING HYMN "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" HOLY MANNA
Hymn #150 (MH) View page 4, all verses

CALL TO WORSHIP: Liturgist, Rev. Marti Soper

Leader: We know that the earth does not belong to us,

People: We belong to the earth.

Leader: We know that all things are connected,

People: Through the Spirit that unites us.

Leader: We know that we did not weave the web of life,

People: We are individual strands in its pattern.

Leader: We know that whatever we do to the web,

People: We do to ourselves.

Leader: Let us give thanks for the gift of creation,

All: Thanks be to God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer!

SHARING OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY "Northfield" Jeremiah Ingalls

†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

***CHILDREN ARE NOW DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL- (MEET IN THE NARTHEX TO BE BROUGHT OVER)**

ANTHEM "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" Daniel Read

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 9:8-17
View page 3 below

Liturgist, Rev. Marti Soper

SERMON

“The Productivity and Personality of God”

Rev. Jack Soper

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 #152 (MH)

“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

View page 5, all verses

FOREST GREEN

BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

POSTLUDE

"Coronation"

Oliver Holden

Scripture Reading: Genesis 9:8-17 (NRSVUE)

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹² God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

ALL VERSES

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

150 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

1. God, who stretched the span-gled heav-ens, in - fi - nite in
2. Proud-ly rise our mod-ern cit - ies, state - ly build-ings,
3. We have ven-tured worlds un-dreamed of since the child-hood
4. As each far ho - ri - zon beck-ons, may it chal-lenge

time and place, flung the suns in burn - ing ra - diance
row on row; yet their win-dows, blank, un - feel - ing,
of our race; known the ec - sta - sy of wing - ing
us a - new, chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose,

through the si - lent fields of space, we your chil - dren,
stare on can - yoned streets be - low, where the lone - ly
through un - trav - eled realms of space; probed the se - crets
serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you. May our dreams prove

in your like - ness, share in - ven - tive powers with you.
drift un - no - ticed in the cit - y's ebb and flow,
of the at - om, yield - ing un - i - mag - ined power,
rich with prom - ise, each en - deav - or well be - gun.

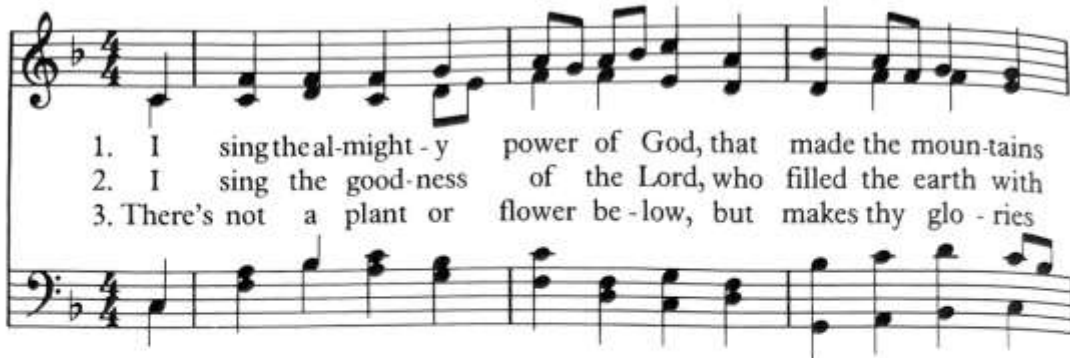
Great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
lost to pur - pose and to mean - ing, scarce - ly car - ing where they go.
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
Great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

ALL VERSES

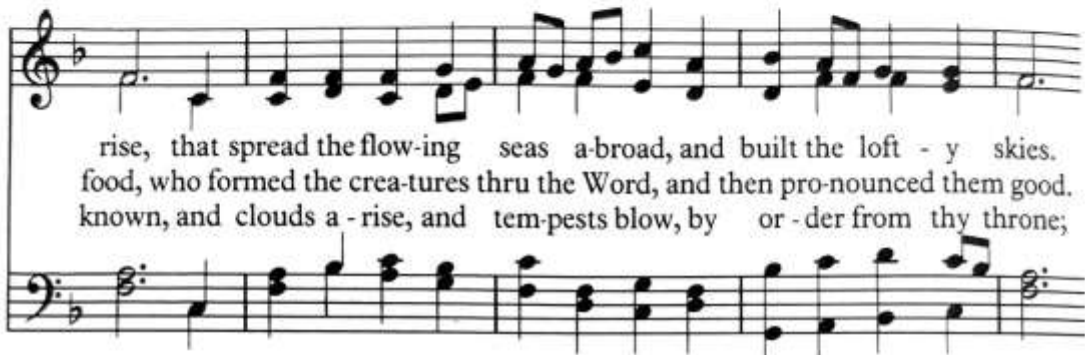
THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

CREATION

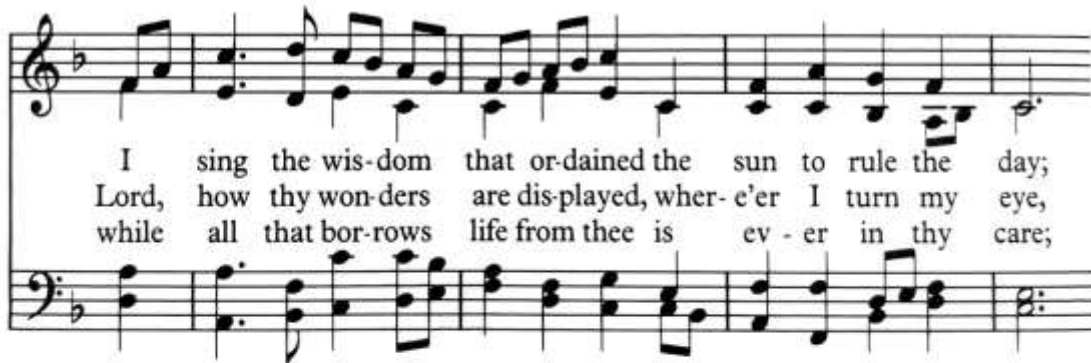
152 I Sing the Almighty Power of God



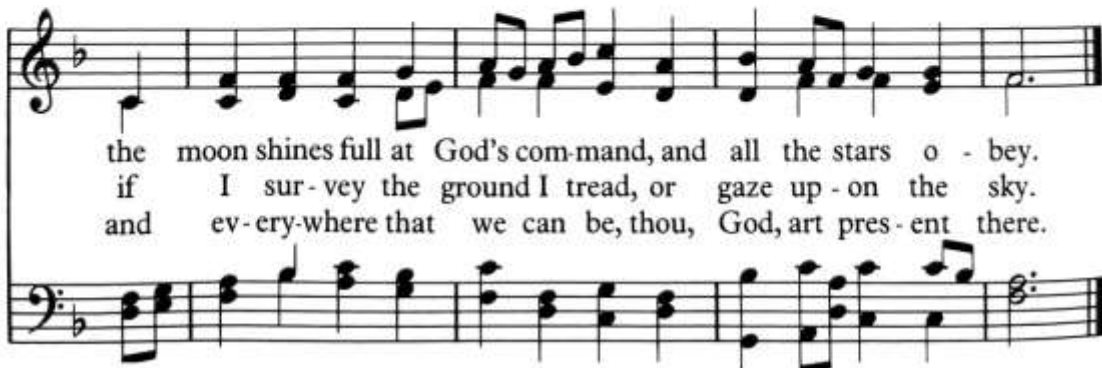
1. I sing the al-might - y power of God, that made the moun-tains
2. I sing the good-ness of the Lord, who filled the earth with
3. There's not a plant or flower be - low, but makes thy glo - ries



rise, that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad, and built the loft - y skies.
food, who formed the crea-tures thru the Word, and then pro-nounced them good.
known, and clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy throne;



I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day;
Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher - e'er I turn my eye,
while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care;



the moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
if I sur-vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky.
and ev - ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres - ent there.

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.

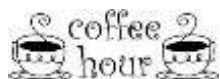
Please Pray For:

Maria Cecilia Guerra - Sister of José Guerra
Eva - Friend of Irina Günzel-Guerra from Norway
Doug McIlvaine - Member of CCOT
Doug Gruber - Brother of Susan Gruber
Jane Moyer - Member of CCOT
Ralph & Diana Titus - Members of CCOT
Sean Enos - Son of neighbor of Jane & Bruce Jones
Cheryl Hopkins - Member of CCOT
Brett Hoover - Grandson of Fred & Carole Hoover
Jennifer Smith - Friend of Martin & Christa in Vermont
Trish Hudson - Former member of CCOT
Kurt Nakanishi - Son of friend of Judi Gosbee
David Muise & Family- Family of Kim Itz
Jacob Itz - Son of Kim & Charlie Itz
Andrea Sommer & Family - Relatives of Irina Günzel Guerra

Mary Vernon Saunders - Cousin of Mary Jelinek
Mike Kinhan - Brother of John Kinhan
Joyce Talbot - Member of CCOT
Abby Bowling - Member of CCOT
Susan Gruber - Member of CCOT
Phil Knowles - Father of Scott Knowles
John Kinhan - Member of CCOT
GML - Friend of Judi & Gary Gosbee
Danielle Redding - Daughter of Christy & Jim Redding
Lynn Barnes - Sister in law of Jim & Barb Barnes
Kevin Goldenbogen - Former Youth Leader at CCOT
Bobby Duchano - Friend of Charles Mathison

Wishing the Family and Friends of Kristen Popielski of Topsfield peace and comfort as they mourn her passing.

Announcements:



*Coffee Hour will be held after service today in the Fellowship Hall.
Hope to have you join us!*



Topsfield Town Clean-Up Day SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

- Clean-Up booth 10-11:30
- Earth Day booths / activities 11-12:30
- Join outside Town Hall!
- Earn a golden ticket for a free cookie from Zumi's
- Electric Vehicle and yard equipment showcase
- Recycling Best-Practices
- Curbside Composing Info and more!



The Congregational Church of Topsfield April Birthdays

Kyle Wyatt: 04/15
Katie Townes: 04/16
David Bunker: 04/20
Jim Mitchell: 04/21



If you would like to have something posted in our InSpire newsletter, pertaining to a specific board, please email the designated Board Chairs:

Trustees/Bruce Jones: bruce.jones45@verizon.net
Deacons/Jim Barnes: jhbarnes1@mac.com
Community & Communications/Nancy Nelson: nbnelson21@gmail.com

Children & Youth/Christy Redding: christvredding76@gmail.com
Mission & Outreach/Joe Gibbons: joe.gibbons@verizon.net

SERVING THIS MORNING

Polly Croteau, Carolyn Detato
Rev. Marti Soper
Steve Whelan
Deb Baker

*Altar Guild
Liturgist
Head Usher
Usher*

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

Music Director and Organist
Jackson Carruthers, 978-887-2101
jackson@topsfieldchurch.org

Communications and Office Manager
Kim Love, 978-887-2101
kimlove@topsfieldchurch.org

Director of Children and Youth Ministries
Kim Love, 978-887-2101
kimlove@topsfieldchurch.org

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