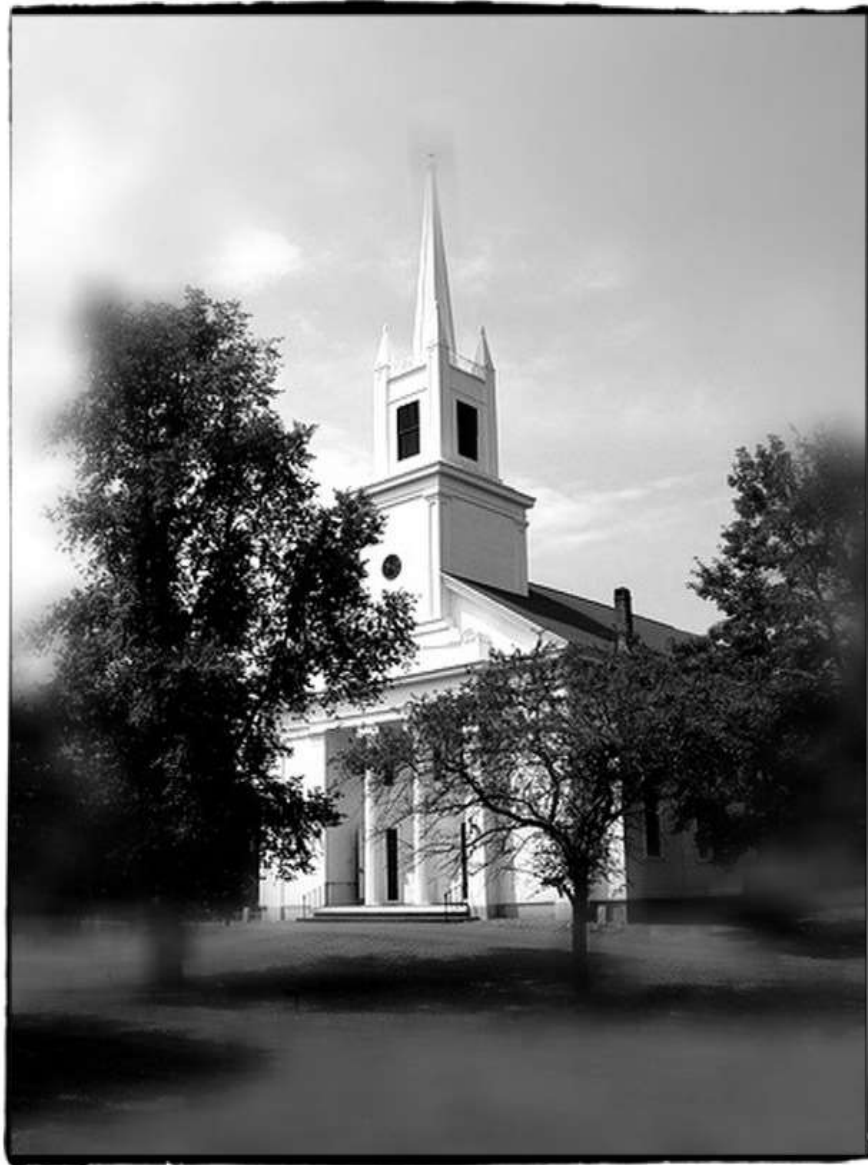


The Congregational Church *of* Topsfield

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



The Congregational Church of Topsfield, *An Open and Affirming Congregation of the UCC*
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ORDER OF WORSHIP
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 20, 2025
9:30 am

PRELUDE "Footsteps of Jesus" Slade/Everett

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. David VanArsdale

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

OPENING HYMN "O For a Thousand Tongues To Sing" AZMON
HYMN #57 (MH) View page 5, verses 1 - 4

CALL TO WORSHIP: Lay Reader, Jim Barnes

Leader: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
God's glory will dwell in our land.
People: Let us hear what God will speak!
Leader: Righteousness and peace will kiss each other;
faithfulness will spring up from the ground.
People: Let us hear what God will speak!
Leader: God will speak peace to God's people,
to those who turn to God in their hearts.
People: Let us hear what God will speak!

OPENING PRAYER IN UNISON:

**Generous and loving God, who provides water in the desert,
wine at a wedding, fish when there are no bites,
bread when we are hungry, and answers when we are confused.
Be with us this morning, as you are always.
Blow through us, that we might sense your presence.
Wrestle with us, that we might discern your path.
Love us that we might become who you call us to be. Amen.**

SHARING OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY "Draw Me Nearer" Crosby/Doane

†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: Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him.^[a] ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's^[b] feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one.^[c] Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

SERMON

"That Spiritual Focus"

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 #396 (MH)

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

View page 6, all verses

ANGEL'S STORY

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"The Breaking of the Dawn"

Fernando Ortega

Looking Ahead to Next Sunday, July 27, 2025...

What are the values ... the rules, and all those things which shape our lives and how we think and feel?

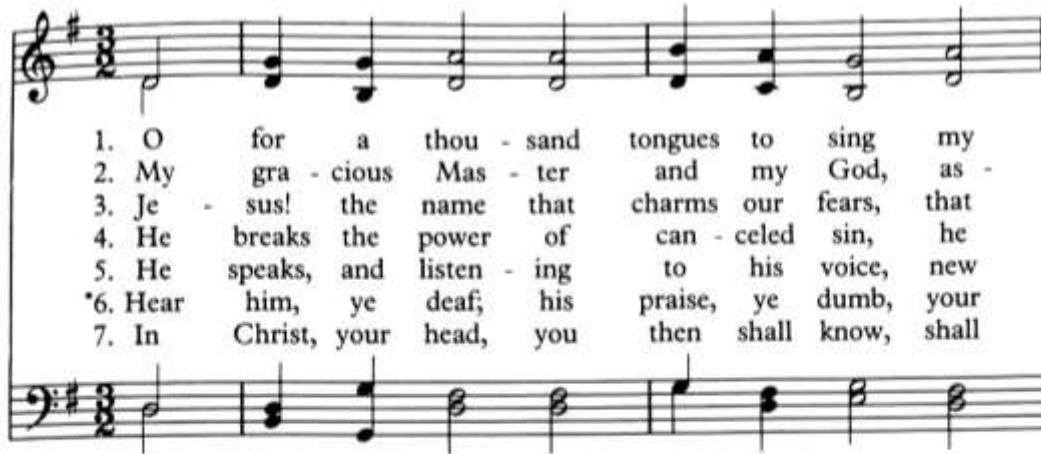
Paul's *Letter to the Colossians* addresses those concerns and in turn speaks to us in our world and our time.

Psalms 85:1-11; Colossians 2:6-15

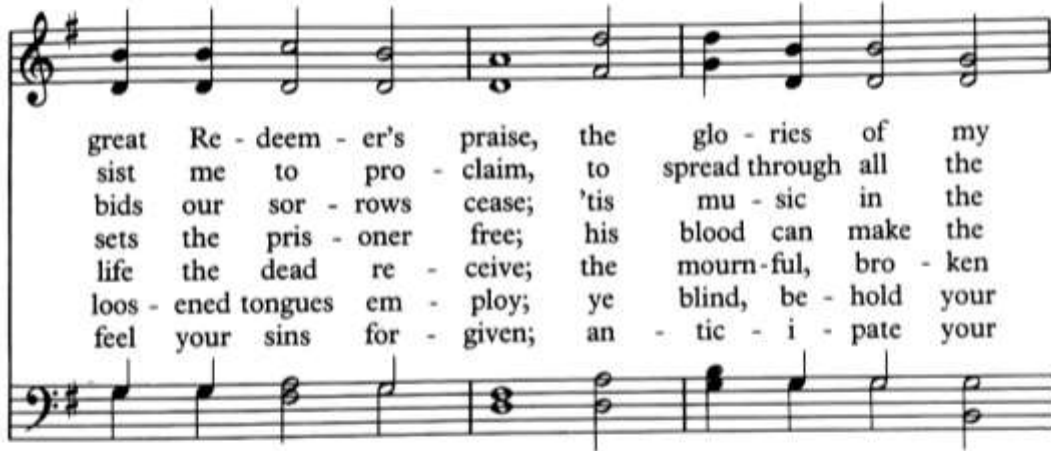
Dr. David L. VanArsdale, Preaching

Theme: *"What Guides Our Lives?"*


O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing 57



1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
 3. Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, that
 4. He breaks the power of can - celed sin, he
 5. He speaks, and listen - ing to his voice, new
 *6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your
 7. In Christ, your head, you then shall know, shall



great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis mu - sic in the
 sets the pris - oner free; his blood can make the
 life the dead re - ceive; the mourn - ful, bro - ken
 loos - ened tongues em - ploy; ye blind, be - hold your
 feel your sins for - given; an - tic - i - pate your



God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
 earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
 sin - ner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
 foul - est clean; his blood a - vailed for me.
 hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 Sav - ior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.
 heaven be - low, and own that love is heaven.

O Jesus, I Have Promised

396

1. O Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;
 2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near;
 3. O let me hear thee speak-ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4. O Je - sus, thou hast prom-ised to all who fol - low thee

be thou for-ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear;
 a - bove the storms of pas-sion, the mur-murs of self - will.
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser-vant be.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,
 my foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan-der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.
 but Je - sus, draw thou near - er, and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard-ian of my soul.
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my Friend.

Congregational Church of Topsfield

Parish Care Ministry

Prayer Listing Contact:

Kim Itz at: prayerlisting@topsfieldchurch.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
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 Phyllis Heslet and family as they mourn the loss of Dennis who passed away this week.

