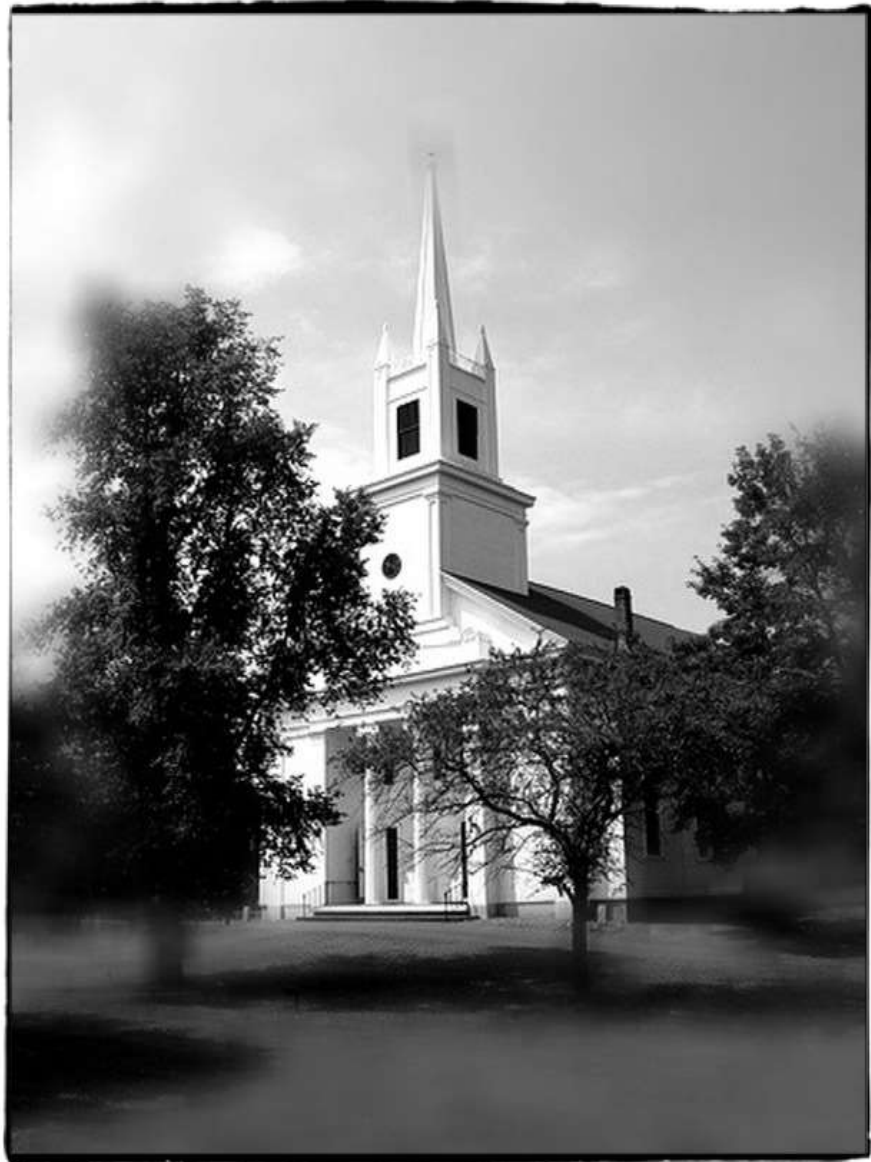


The Congregational Church *of* Topsfield

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



ORDER OF WORSHIP
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
9:30 am

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Martin Riekert

EMERSON FIELD UPDATE

Dave Read

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

OPENING HYMN
Hymn #114 (MH)

“Many Gifts, One Spirit”
View page 5, all verses

KATHERINE

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON):

Lay Reader, John Kinhan

**O Holy One, we come today
to affirm our relationship with you.
We pray for the commitment to grow together,
sharing the gifts you give us with others
here and in the wider world.
Grant us strength and discipline
to nurture our relationship with you;
to care for every part of your creation;
to foster justice and be in solidarity with those in need;
to work to end all war, and violence, and discord;
and to respond joyfully when you call,
freely giving our selves as you have shown the way.
We open our hearts to you in this service and beyond
in the name of Jesus.
Amen.**

- *From the Seekers Church, Washington D.C.*

SHARING OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY

†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

Matthew 8:18-22; Luke 4:14-19
View page 4

Lay Reader, John Kinhan

ANTHEM

SERMON

“Going Home”

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 #672 (CH)

“Where Restless Crowds Are Thronging”
View page 6, all verses

MEIRIONYDD

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Scripture Readings: (NRSVUE)

Matthew 8:18-22

¹⁸ Now when Jesus saw great crowds^[a] around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. ¹⁹ A scribe then approached and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” ²⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” ²¹ Another of his disciples said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” ²² But Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

Luke 4: 14-19

¹⁴ Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

114 Many Gifts, One Spirit

GOD'S NATURE

C G C F G C

1. God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,
2. God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs,
3. Fresh-ness of the morn - ing, new-ness of each night,

E Am D7 G

when we fear the fu - ture, give to us your grace.
you have made us dif - ferent, bless-ing man - y kinds.
you are still cre - at - ing end-less love and light.

G7 C F C G7 C G7 C

In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.
As the old ways dis - ap - pear, let your love cast out our fear.
This we see, as shad-ows part, man-y gifts from one great heart.

Refrain C F G C F C

Man - y gifts, one Spir - it, one love known in man - y ways.

G C

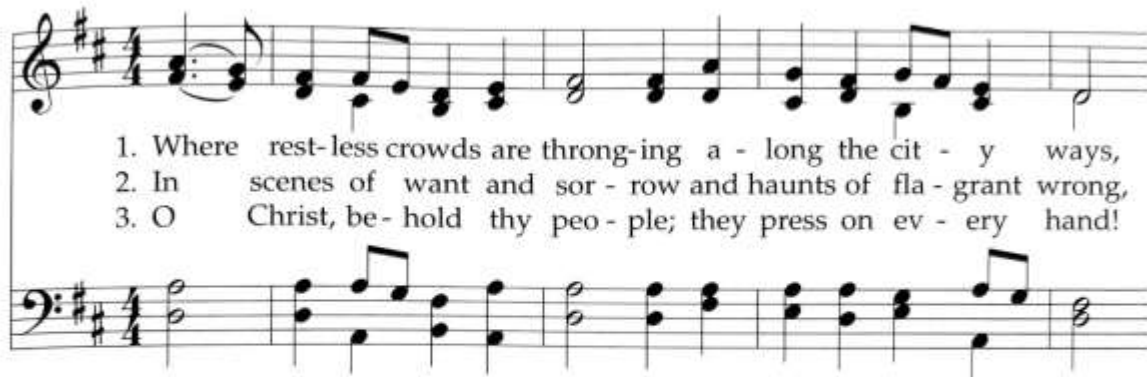
In our dif - fer - ence is bless-ing, from di-ver - si - ty we praise one Giv-er,

one Lord, one Spir - it, one Word known in man - y ways,

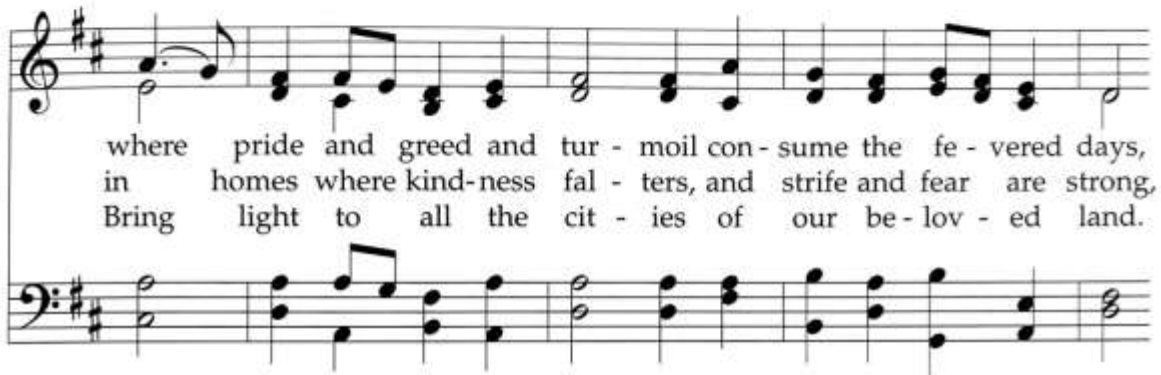
F C G7 C

hal-low-ing our days. For the Giv-er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

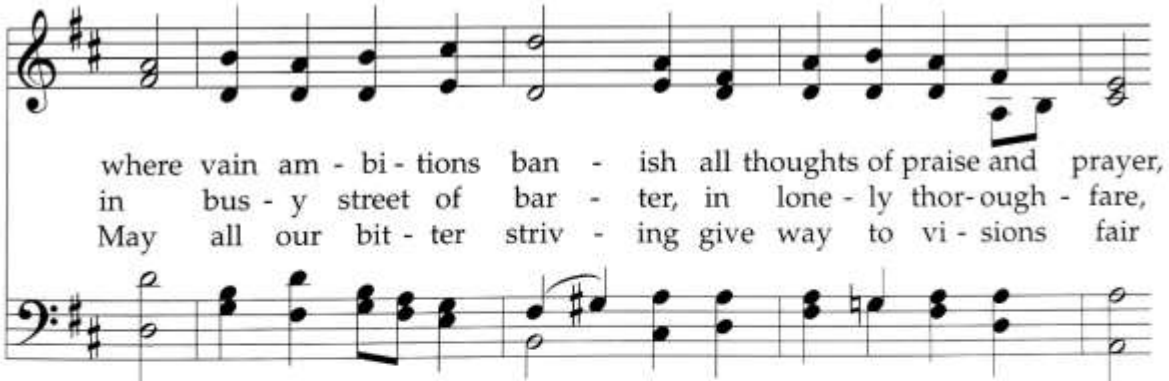
Where Restless Crowds Are Thronging 672



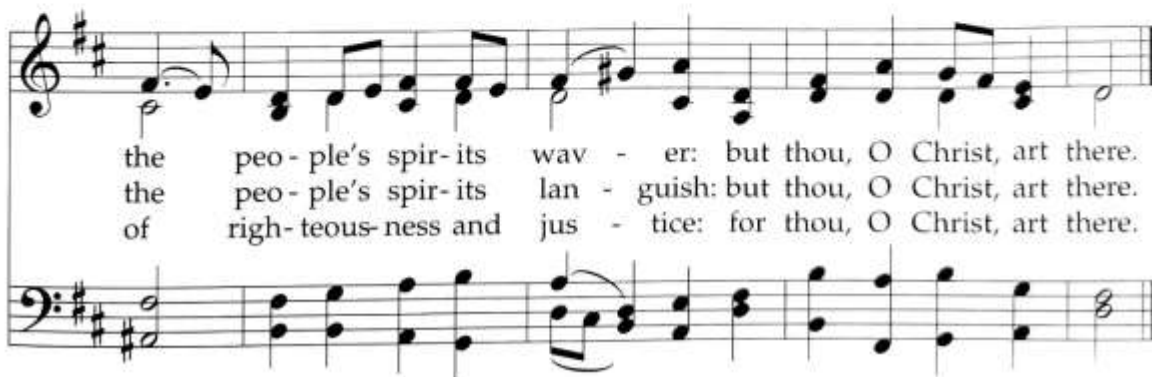
1. Where rest-less crowds are throng-ing a - long the cit - y ways,
 2. In scenes of want and sor - row and haunts of fla - grant wrong,
 3. O Christ, be - hold thy peo - ple; they press on ev - ery hand!



where pride and greed and tur - moil con - sume the fe - vered days,
 in homes where kind-ness fal - ters, and strife and fear are strong,
 Bring light to all the cit - ies of our be - lov - ed land.



where vain am - bi - tions ban - ish all thoughts of praise and prayer,
 in bus - y street of bar - ter, in lone - ly thor-ough - fare,
 May all our bit - ter striv - ing give way to vi - sions fair



the peo - ple's spir-its wav - er: but thou, O Christ, art there.
 the peo - ple's spir-its lan - guish: but thou, O Christ, art there.
 of righ-teous-ness and jus - tice: for thou, O Christ, art there.

Congregational Church of Topsfield

Parish Care Ministry

Prayer List Contact:

Kim Itz at 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:

Maria Cecilia Guerra - Sister of José Guerra
Eva - Friend of Irina Günzel-Guerra from Norway
Alexander - Brother of friend of Irina Gunzel-Guerra
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
Paul Worth - Husband of Claudia Worth
Jennifer Smith – Friend of Martin & Christa in Vermont

Bill Rhyne - Husband of Kathy Rhyne
David Muise - Nephew of Kim & Charlie Itz
Trish Hudson - Former member of CCOT
Kurt Nakanishi - Son of friend of Judi Gosbee
Sandy Holinka - Grandmother of friend of Chris Itz
Dan Knowles - Son of Phillip & Marilyn Knowles
Kelly Crombie - Daughter of Meg & Don Moran
Eileen Doane - Cousin of Katy Fleming
Jacob Itz - Son of Kim & Charlie Itz
Andrea Sommer & Family - Relatives of Irina Günzel Guerra
Mary Vernon Saunders - Cousin of Mary Jelinek
Amico Family - Friends of Kim Itz

We offer our prayers of Love and Sympathy to Rasheed Townes and his family as they mourn the sudden passing of his uncle Joseph Townes.

Announcements:



The Congregational Church of Topsfield September Birthdays

Phyllis Heslet	9/24
Pamela Wilder	9/24
Cathy Imboden	9/25
Leslie Voss	9/25
Mike Ierardi	9/27
Chris Itz	9/27



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



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:
christyredding76@gmail.com
Mission & Outreach/Joe Gibbons:
joe.gibbons@verizon.net

SERVING THIS MORNING

Polly Croteau, Carolyn Detato
John Kinhan
Bob Knutsen
Doug Wills

*Altar Guild
Lay Reader
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 & Office Manager
Kim Love, 978-887-2101
kimlove@topsfieldchurch.org

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