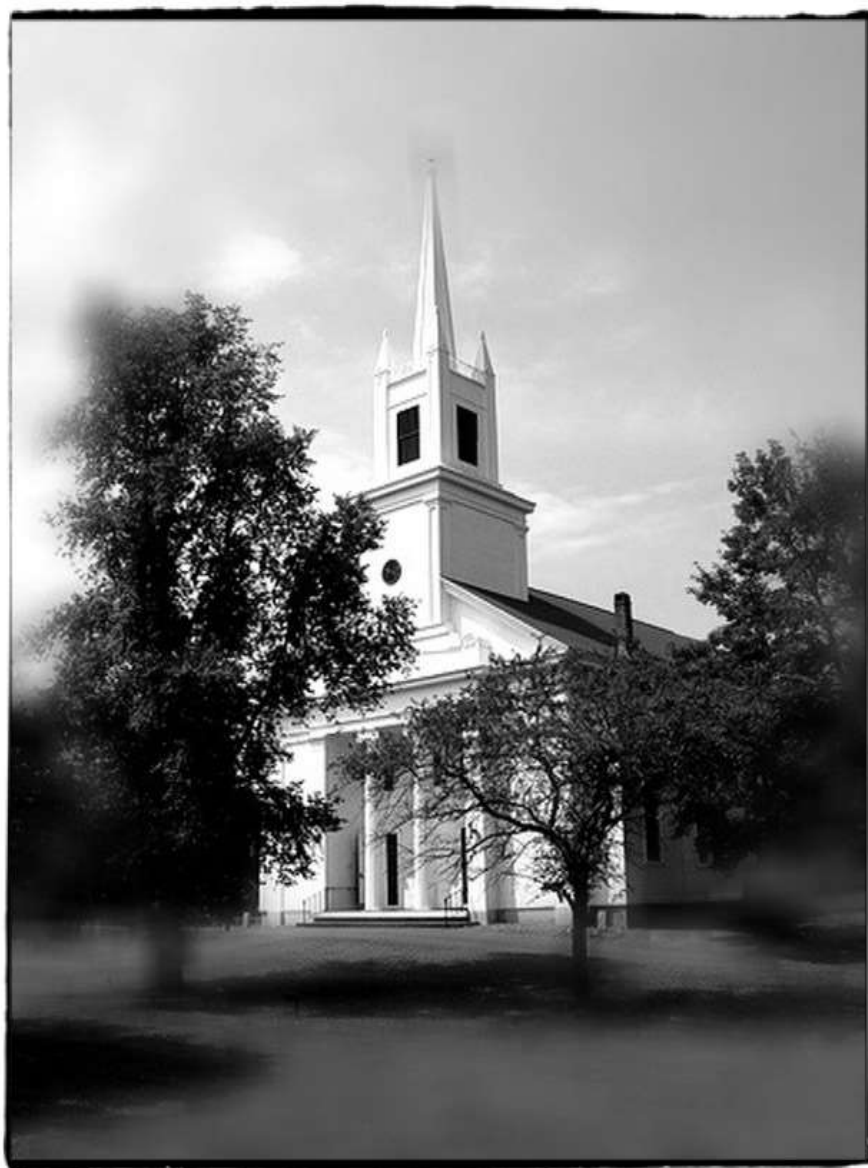


The Congregational Church *of* Topsfield

*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
TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
AUGUST 24, 2025
9:30 am

PRELUDE "Take My Life, and Let It Be" Havergal/Malan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. David VanArsdale

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

OPENING HYMN "O God of Every Nation" LLANGLOFFAN
HYMN #435 (MH) View page 6, all verses

CALL TO WORSHIP: Lay Reader, Serena Caperonis

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the feast of life.
Come, let the Spirit be alive among us.

People: **Let many guests come: the lame, the blind,
the crippled, and the poor;
that we might honor God by honoring them.**

Leader: We come to celebrate meeting with the Lord.

People: **Together, let us renew our commitment to the kingdom of God.**

OPENING PRAYER IN UNISON:

**God the creator, we come, in awe of you.
We are overwhelmed by the wonder of your creation;
we are inspired by your mystery of life;
we are amazed by the beauty of your world;
we are astonished that such a God would have anything to do with the likes of us.
So, we kneel before you, in awe and wonder, humbled before your greatness.
Renew us and refresh us; enable us and enliven us; challenge us and change us;
prompt us and improve us ... in our worship ... in our mission ...
and in our service in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and all to your Glory Amen.**

SHARING OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY "Beach Spring" B.F. White

†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 14:1, 7-14**

14 On one occasion when Jesus^[a] was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” ¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

SERMON

“Practicing Hospitality”

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 #593 (MH)

“Here I Am, Lord”
View page 7, all verses

HERE I AM, LORD

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Take My Life, and Let It Be”

Havergal/Sedio/Pharris

Looking Ahead to Next Sunday, August 31, 2025...

Starting next Sunday, our sermons will focus on the theme of ***A Reconciling Church***. The Lectionary leads us through some of the most memorable and yet challenging parables in the Gospel of Luke. As we listen to these words each Sunday may we be open again to hearing the teachings of Jesus for our living in our day.

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33

Theme: *The Costs are High*

Dr. David L. VanArsdale, Preaching

ALL VERSES

435

O God of Every Nation

1. O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2. From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3. Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease,
 4. Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

where hate and fear di - vide us, and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign,

in love and mer - cy guide us, and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

ALL VERSES

593

Here I Am, Lord

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I who made the stars of night,
I have heard my peo-ple cry,
I will make their dark-ness bright.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I will break their hearts of stone,
I have borne my peo-ple's pain,
give them hearts for love a-lone.

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide,
I will tend the poor and lame,
till their hearts be sat-is-fied.

1. All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.
Who will bear my light to them?
I have wept for love of them. They turn a-way.
I will speak my word to them. My hand will save.
I will set a feast for them.
I will give my life to them.

2. Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord.
Whom shall I send?
Whom shall I send?

Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the
night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.

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 Castellonet - 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

