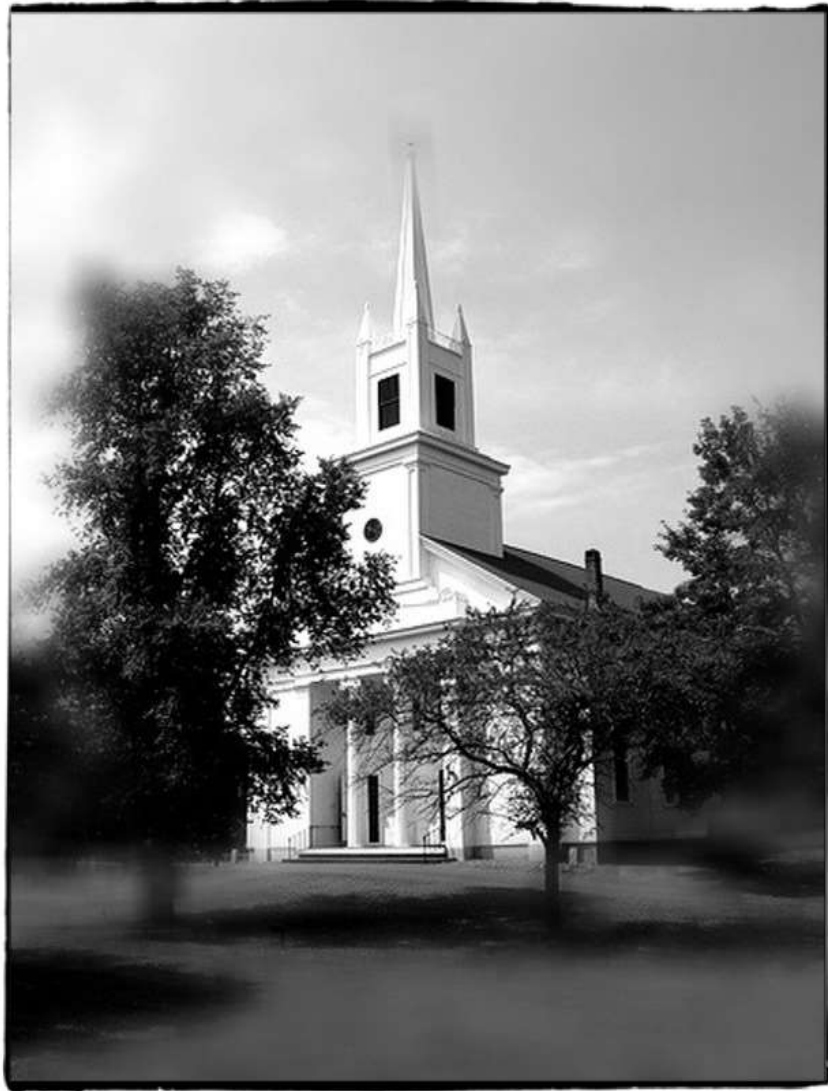


The Congregational Church *of* Topsfield

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



The Congregational Church of Topsfield
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the UCC
9 East Common St. Topsfield, MA. 01983 Church Office: 978-887-2101 Website: www.topsfieldchurch.org

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SHARING OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY

“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

Theodulf/Teschner

†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

RECEIVING THE CONFIRMANDS AS MEMBERS - *See pages 8-12*

PRESENTATION OF PRAYER SHAWLS

Sandy Whelan and Ruth Bortzfield

PRESENTING OF FAITH STATEMENTS OF CONFIRMANDS

†UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19: 28-40
View page 4

Lay Reader, Cathy Szymanski

BELL ANTHEM

“Ride On, King Jesus”

Arr. Valerie Stephenson

HOMILY

“The Gift of the Jews”

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 #191 (CH)

“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”
View page 6, verses 1-2

CANONBURY

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“The Holy City”

Stephen Adams

Scripture:

Luke 19: 28-40 (NRSVUE)

²⁸ After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, “Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it.’ ” ³² So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴ They said, “The Lord needs it.” ³⁵ Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸ saying,

“Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!”

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” ⁴⁰ He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

VERSES 1 - 3

192 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Descant

3. Ho - san - na! Sing prais - es! Ho - san - na!

1. All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or, to you, Re - deem - er, King,
 2. The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high,
 3. To you be - fore your pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;

Ho - san - na! Sing prais - es! Our ho - san - nas raise!

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
 to you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.

You heard their prais - es now hear us as we pray.

You are a child of Is - rael, Great Da - vid's great - er son;
 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore you went;
 As you re - ceived their prais - es, now hear us as we pray.

Ho - san - na! Sing prais - es! Rule in our hearts to - day.

you ride in low - ly tri - umph, Mes - si - ah, bless - ed one!
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 Since you de - light in good - ness, rule in our hearts to - day.

VERSES 1 - 2

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!

191

1. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! As
 2. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! In
 3. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! The
 4. Ride on, ride on in ma - jes - ty! Your

all the crowds ho - san - na cry; through wav - ing branch - es
 low - ly pomp ride on to die; O Christ, your tri - umph
 an - gel ar - mies of the sky look down with sad and
 last and fierc - est foe de - fy; bow your meek head to

slow - ly ride, O Sav - ior, to be cru - ci - fied.
 now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 won - dering eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 mor - tal pain, then take, O God, your power and reign.

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:

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
Dennis Heslet- Member of CCOT
Jane Jones - Member of CCOT
Larry Atkins - Member of CCOT
Fred Parker - Member of CCOT
Jacob Itz - Son of Kim & Charlie Itz
David Muisse & Family- Family of Kim Itz
Scott Bortzfield - Son of Ruth Bortzfield
Jack Whelan - Brother of Steve Whelan
Steve Hoover - Son of Carol & Fred Hoover
Dorcas Gordon - Grandmother of Rasheed Townes
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
Laura Whelan - Daughter in law of Steve & Sandy Whelan
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

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TOPSFIELD

An Open and Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Christ

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

April 13, 2025



CONFIRMANDS' STATEMENTS OF FAITH

Confirmands:

Everett Miller

James Love

Faith Statement
Everett Miller

I have been going to church with my family since I can remember. When I was little and went to Sunday School, I never loved going up for Children's Time but I liked going across the street for Sunday School, where I knew there would be Goldfish crackers in a paper cup and the chance to play. Now I stay in church and listen to what Martin and others have to say. My favorite sermons and talks are ones with pictures on the screen of people's travels. And after the service I like being with my parents at coffee hour and talking to everyone in the church community, especially Ruth, until we have to drag my dad out of there because he is busy "Knutsen with Bob" (as we like to say) about treasurer stuff.

One of my favorite parts about being involved with this church is the youth group. I love the mission trips I have been a part of, the Christmas pageant, that one time I did the polar plunge, and when we just started having discussions at Zumi's. I think that the involvement that you get from being in the youth group is special. I am able to connect with people my age and the youth leaders/trusted adults. I like hearing what other people have to say about similar experiences that they have had compared to mine. I also think that it's great just to be able to connect on certain topics whether it be school or sports.

There are many lessons that the church has taught me. It has taught me that having a community to lean on is very important. Always having somebody there for you is what being in a community is all about, as well as having laughs and just having a good time. But I think that giving back to those in need is even more important. On the mission trips that I have gone to, I helped paint a house in Cherryfield, Maine and helped out with many things in the area. Cor Unum was harder; I liked serving the people there, but they weren't in great moods because living that lifestyle can be hard for a lot of people. I feel that I am serving God through serving others.

I can't wait to become a member of this church, and to officially become a part of this community that will always have my back.

~Everett Miller



Faith Statement
James Love

As I prepare for my confirmation, I come before God embracing the love that God has for all his creations. I believe that God's love is inclusive, the same for everyone, and that single belief is what specifically shapes my religious views in this church.

When I first went here, forced by my family but especially my mom, I had no idea what I was in for. I had no idea the kind of impact this church would leave on me, especially as a kid going through the angst stage in childhood. I remember when I first came to this church, I thought that service was basically a fifty minute lecture about God and the Bible, with a few songs thrown in. But Reverend Martins' worship and Reverend Amy's teaching style was completely different, and it showed me that church wasn't just a pastor talking to you about the Bible for an hour. It was actually much more important than that, and it helped me grow as a person both personally and religiously.

I especially want to mention the community, in which I met a group of awesome people whom I am allowed to be myself around. I want to thank the friends I have in church, especially Annika, Damian, Everett, Jac, Jessa, Sylvia, Catie, who have all made my religious experience filled with acceptance and friendship.

While I learned many things in my time at this church, there was always one main thing that stuck out for me. It was the fact that each and every person was created in God's image, deserving of dignity, respect, and love. The Bible teaches us that God's love is for all people, and by accepting everyone you are working in God's favor.

A part of the bible that specifically resonates with me is when Jesus says in Leviticus 19:18 "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself." This part is very important to me because it mentions how important loving people, even those you don't know, is in today's society. So many people are going through difficult times, and by treating others with kindness and respect you are acting in god's favor. Specifically seeing the hate and violence in the world around me in the manifestation of war and hate and racism, this part from the bible is a way for me to live hate free in a much hate filled world.

As I take this step in my faith, I commit the love of God by accepting, respecting, and celebrating all people, just as they are. I recognize that all humans are on a path toward a greater understanding of God's love, and I trust that through our shared faith, we can create a more just, compassionate, and inclusive world.

Finally, I believe that God's love is not just a concept to be understood, but a force to be experienced and shared. As we journey together in this community, I am filled with hope, knowing that God's love is present, welcoming, and with no limits. May we all embrace the next group of people coming after me, and teach them as you all taught me. Every person is deserving of God's love, no matter where they come from or who they are.

~James Love



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TOPSFIELD
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RECEPTION OF CONFIRMANDS AS ADULT MEMBERS:

Everett Miller and James Love

INVITATION (MINISTER):

At confirmation we affirm our baptism by becoming adult members of the church. We are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These young men and women have found nurture and support in this faith community and they have decided to affirm their covenantal relationship with the members of this church and with God. I now invite the confirmands to come to the front.

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES:

LEADER

*Do you affirm your faith in God:
revealed to us in all that is,
known especially in the life and teachings of Jesus,
and present in us and around us in the Holy Spirit?*

*Do you promise:
to be a disciple of Jesus and to follow in his way,
to resist oppression and evil,
to show compassion,
to do justice,
and to make the realm of God visible on earth your priority in life?*

*Do you commit with your whole being:
to be a faithful member of this church
or the church where your journey will take you,
and of the church worldwide?*

RESPONSE BY CANDIDATES INDIVIDUALLY:

I do, with my whole heart.

COVENANT WITH THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CHURCH:

(All members of the Congregational Church of Topsfield may stand)

LEADER (addressing the congregation):

Do you promise to accept these new members as your brothers in faith, to care for them, to work with them and journey with them as we strive to be a true household of God?

CONGREGATION:

We do and we welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church. May we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses to the realm of God as Jesus taught us.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues, and races.

You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.
Amen.