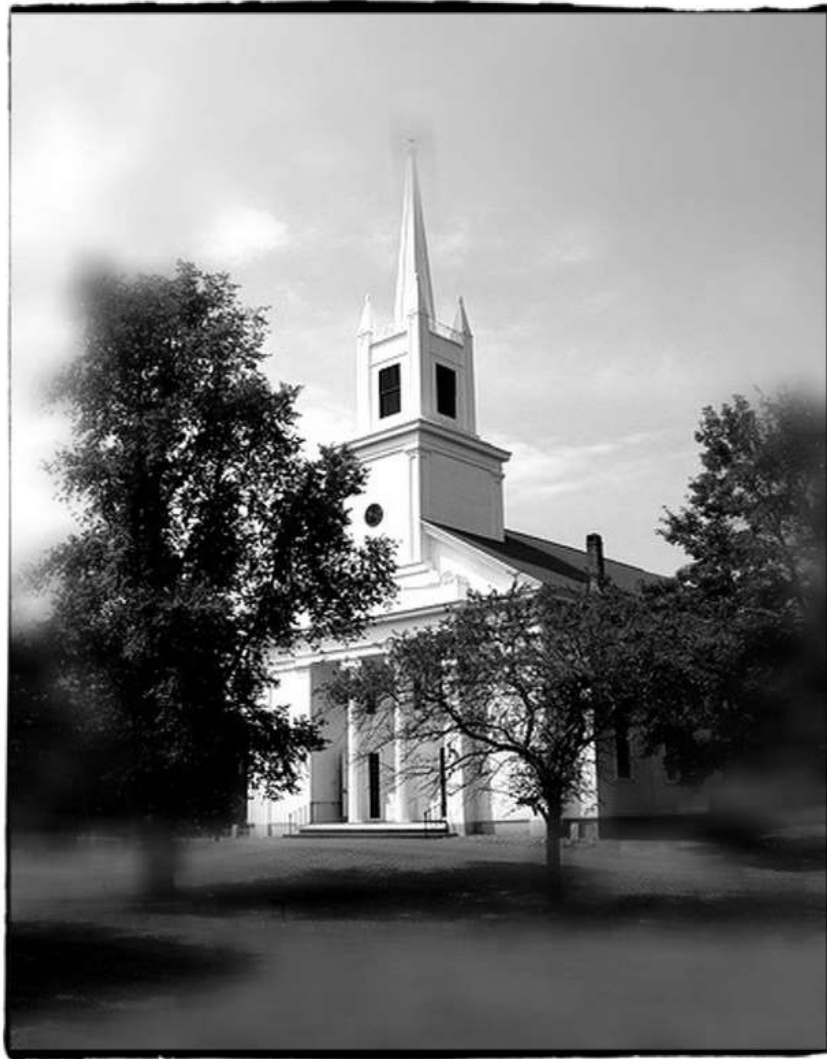


# The Congregational Church *of* Topsfield

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





**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**HOMEcoming SUNDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 14, 2025**

**PRELUDE** *Carolán's Welcome* Turlough O'Carolan

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. Dr. David VanArsdale

**PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION**

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS** Director of Children and Youth, Kim Love

**OPENING HYMN** "God of the Sparrow God of the Whale" ROEDER  
**HYMN #122 (MH)** View page 5, all verses

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** Lay Reader, Bruce Jones

**Leader:** Let us enter the presence of our God with a renewed heart and a right spirit.

**People:** **Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

**Leader:** Let us speak, hear, and embrace truth and the wisdom of God.

**People:** **Strengthen and empower us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

**Leader:** Let us hear joy and gladness. Restore our crushed spirits.

**People:** **Revive us again, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

**OPENING PRAYER IN UNISON:**

**Holy God, you seek us when we are lost.**

**You do not turn away from those who others minimize and demean.**

**Help us to recognize the belovedness of every human being and all your creation. Give us courage and curiosity to engage with those that others would ignore or isolate.**

**Let us rejoice on earth as your rejoice in heaven as we make restoration, redemption, and reconciliation abound among us. Amen.**

**SHARING OUR GIFTS**

**THE OFFERTORY** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Robert Robinson

**†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**

**ANTHEM** "The Old Ship of Zion" Traditional Spiritual

## Scripture Reading: Luke 15:1-10

**15** Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. <sup>8</sup> “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

### SERMON

“The Welcoming Spirit of Christ”

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 #719 (MH)

“My Lord, What a Morning”

View page 6, all verses

BURLEIGH

### BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

“My Lord, What a Morning”

Traditional Spiritual

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

Theme: “*Street Smart and Faithful*”

Dr. David L. VanArsdale, Preaching

The Lectionary parable for this next Sunday is one of the most difficult to understand. At first glance, Jesus appears that Jesus was commending the steward for his dishonest actions. What are the little things we do every day to serve the Lord with faithfulness? That’s the challenge!

ALL VERSES

122

God of the Sparrow  
God of the Whale

*Unison*

1. God of the spar-row God of the whale  
2. God of the earth-quake God of the storm  
3. God of the rain-bow God of the cross  
4. God of the hun-gry God of the sick  
5. God of the neigh-bor God of the foe  
6. God of the a - ges God near at hand

God of the swirl - ing stars  
God of the trum - pet blast  
God of the emp - ty grave  
God of the prod - i - gal  
God of the prun - ing hook  
God of the lov - ing heart

How does the crea-ture say  
How does the crea-ture cry  
How does the crea-ture say  
How does the crea-ture say  
How does the crea-ture say  
How do your chil-dren say

1-5 6

Awe  
Woe  
Grace  
Care  
Love  
Joy

How does the crea-ture say Praise  
How does the crea-ture cry Save  
How does the crea-ture say Thanks  
How does the crea-ture say Life  
How does the crea-ture say Peace  
How do your chil-dren say

Home

## My Lord, What a Morning

719

*Refrain*

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing;

*Fine*

oh, my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

1. You'll hear the trum-pet sound,  
2. You'll hear the sin-ner moan, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,  
3. You'll hear the Chris-tian shout,

*D.C.*

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

## Congregational Church of Topsfield Parish Care Ministry

### Prayer Listing Contact:

Kim Itz at: [prayerlisting@topsfieldchurch.org](mailto: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  
Jacob Itz - Son of Kim & Charlie 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  
Renata Carr - Sister of Ilona Vela  
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  
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  
Nancy - Friend of Julie Quinlivan  
Linda VanArsdale - Daughter in Law of Dave VanArsdale, Bridge Minister of CCOT  
Cathy Flynn - Daughter of John Arathuzik, CCOT Caretaker

