**WELCOME TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH!** We are happy to have you with us. This service is part of our ongoing life of worship, learning, and service. We are here to deepen our relationship with God and with one another, and to explore how to live our lives more fully and compassionately. We invite you to continue your journey with us. If you are visiting with us today, please complete a welcome card found in the pews and place it in the offering plate or hand it to any usher.

# **THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God by Nancy Thomson in memory of Gert and George Bauer.

# Serving Us Today

Ushers Zachary Newman and Rick Poland

Lay ReaderSam StewartCoffee ServerEsther BryantA/V TechnicianZachary Arvantely

## Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9-2 508-835-4462 administrator@fccwb.com www.fccwb.com Pastor Julie Cedrone - julie@fccwb.com Ken Richards - kenrichards1225@gmail.com

#### Staff

The Reverend Julie L. Cedrone, Pastor

Lisa A. Fisher, Administrative Assistant

Corinne S. Uliano, Nursery School Director

Ken H. Richards, SPC, Minister of Music

Waldo Cummings III, Custodian

#### Pastors in Residence

The Reverend Karyl J. Leslie
The Reverend George E. Vogel, Associate Pastor Emeritus



The First Congregational Church West Boylston, Massachusetts A Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 18, 2022 **The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost** 10:00 a.m.

# WE ASSEMBLE AND PRAISE GOD

PRELUDE Prelude: A Lamentation Jean Langlais

## WELCOME AND WORD OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Divine Parent, you feel what we feel. **People: Our joys and our pains are yours too.**Leader: Divine Healer, you delight in our wholeness.

People: You are the balm for our heavy-laden hearts and souls.

Leader: Giver of life, you are able to renew us

People: We open ourselves to you, have your way within us.

\*HYMN **No. 261** 

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

## PRAYER OF INVOCATON

Divine Nurturer, we are thankful that we can come to you any time. You have made it possible for us to come, as we are however, we are. We rejoice in knowing that you walk with us whether the road is rough or smooth. You are steadfast. Help us to nurture our relationship with you, ourselves, and each other so that we may be a balm when none can be found. Amen.

# PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Dear God, we confess that sometimes our goals don't align with yours, and we get lost. At times, we have pursued power, knowledge, and wealth instead of you, who are the source of all. We know that you are the balm we need, and we turn ourselves towards you. You are steadfast in your love and justice. Help us to be the same, help us to be a balm to others as you are to us. Amen.

# THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

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.

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The Divine one is steadfast in love, justice, and righteousness. Know that we are called and empowered to do the same. In a chaotic world, we can know peace, and in a chaotic world, we can be at peace. May God's grace be a balm for us, and may we be a balm to and for others. Amen.

#### CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us sing praise to God!

People: We will continually praise God's name.

#### \*GLORIA PATRI No. 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Baptism Song Forever Young Bob Dylan Rachel Cobb Douglas, vocalist

#### THE SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Austin Frederick Poland, son of Renee and Ryan Poland

Baptism Hymn **No. 498** Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

ANTHEM As the Deer Martin Nystrom
Choir Lloyd Larson, arr.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 Luke 16:1-13

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON Debt-Free Living The Reverend Julie L. Cedrone

MUSICAL MEDITATION Be Still My Soul Jean Sibelius

#### THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

#### OUR FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People Pastoral Prayer Musical Response

## OFFERING INVITATION

God's love is steadfast and abundant. We are blessed to give from hearts of love that others might experience abundance. May the gifts we bring be used to supply whatever balm is needed, wherever it is needed. May these resources be used to facilitate the wholeness of all. Amen. Visitors are invited to fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate.

**OFFERTORY** 

Variation 2 on 'Aberystwyth'

Violet Archer

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Steadfast One, receive our gifts in the gladness we give them. Thank you that we have an abundance of resources to share so that every need is met. May we always give from wide open hearts, and may what we give, be used to bring a balm of justice. Amen.

## \*AT THE PRESENTATION

Old Hundredth

Violet Archer

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

\*HYMN **No. 394** 

There Is a Balm in Gilead

### BLESSING

As you enter into everyday life again, let the balm you received be the balm that you gladly share with others. Go forth in the wholeness of God's steadfast love. Amen.

POSTLUDE Variation 4 on 'Aberystwyth,' a Postlude

Our worship is over, our service in the world begins

# Prayer and Praise

Names will be listed for two weeks unless we hear from you that the need continues.

All those with health concerns:

Sophia Landeo

Lori Rotti-Carol Barnes' daughter-in-law

Philip Helle

Nancy-Peter Borge's sister

Richard Whitney Nick Person

Ursula Helle Allison Person Rob Nierintz

Sue Coviello Ron Newman-Dan Newman's father

Carol Ann Hamilton

Nancy-Ben Bryant's friend's significant other

Scott Holt

A child-Donna Raymond's friend

Donna-Jenna Hoodlet's family

Ron & Carol Barnes

Donna-Karyl Leslie's friend Gail-friend of Diana Engelbart Virginia-Karyl Leslie's friend

Chuck Crone

Brent-Beverly Fisher's son

Dawn-a former faithful thrift shop volunteer

Karyl Leslie

Obadidullah- a14 year old Afghan refugee seeking medical help in Worcester

Connie Stewart

Tommy Hayes and family

Lee Bolivar June Crone

Brian Dombrowski-Beth Tivnan's brother-

in-law

Lue and Brad Hawley

Barbara-Esther Bryant's friend

Zachary Bauer Doris Johnson

In sympathy:

The family of Nancy Gardner-Nancy a former secretary of the church passed away on August 19<sup>th</sup>. A private burial will be held later this month.

Wider concerns:

Ukrainian refugees and those struggling to survive in Ukraine.

Victims of violent crimes and their families.

The refugees from Afghanistan.

Those who are feeling especially lonely or

bereft at this time.

Our service men and women around the

world and their families.

Those who are unemployed among us and around the country.

# Calendar for the Week

# Today ~ Please join us for coffee in Fellowship Hall following worship. CE/Fellowship and Fun team meeting following worship.

# We host at In the Hour of Need Family Shelter all week.

Tue Sept 20 1:00 p.m. WB Ecumenical Food Pantry

7:00 p.m. Administration & Finance Meeting

Wed Sept 21 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal

# Sunday, September 25, 2022 The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Worship The Reverend Julie L. Cedrone preaching Kate Kent, piano and violin

# Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> God on Tap at O'Connor's at 7:00 p.m.

Evil: Where does evil originate and how do we live with evil around us? Is evil a force, a demon, or an energy that dwells in institutions?

# Saturday, October 15th

Funeral for Al Hesemeyer at 11:00 a.m.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Fall Fest on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>
Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>
Women's Retreat on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

If you would like to donate altar flowers please contact Lisa Fisher in the church office, 508-835-4462.

The cost of the flowers is \$35.00.

Available dates: September 25 October 2 October 30