United Church of Christ, Congregational Boxborough

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No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you BELONG here.

September 27, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Prelude *Lord, Revive Us* Ritter

Welcome & Announcements Pastor Fran Graveson

Introit *Welcome* Miller

Call to Worship Lay Leader

One: Come, all who carry the weight of fear and uncertainty,
All: for the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable.
One: Come, you who have felt forgotten, rejected, or outside the fold,
All: for God's mercy is wide, welcoming, and endlessly deep.
One: May our hearts be opened to the mystery of God's grace,
All: and may our lives trust in the possibilities beyond our knowing.[i]

***** Hymn #73 vs 1-3 (NCH Black hymnal) Enter, Rejoice, and Come In Ruspini

Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.

Open yourself to the song. Open yourself to the song.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.

Open your hearts everyone. Open your hearts everyone.
Today will be a joyful day; enter, rejoice, and come in.

Prayer of Transformation Lay Reader

God of justice, you stand with the righteous. You visit and love those imprisoned unjustly. You give hope to those fighting through obstacles and barriers. We confess that we do not always act as you when we see injustice. Help us to see the truth and stand with the righteous.

<moment of silence>

Prayer of Assurance

We are loved. As we move through this life, our experiences are different. God sees all of the life experiences and walks with each of us. God asks us to see each other's path, trust those who show us injustice, and walk together in love. Amen.

* Passing of the Peace

One: We take this time in community to share God's peace from one heart to another. The peace of God be with you.

All: And also, with you.

* Song of Celebration *Nada te turbe* (*Nothing Can Trouble)*

Nothing can trouble,
Nothing can frighten,
Those who seek God
Shall never go wanting
God alone fills us

Nada te turbe,
Nada te espante
Quien a Dios
Tiene nada le falta.
Solo Dios basta

Story for All Ages Pastor Fran Graveson

Anthem *El Manisero* Simons

"**El manisero**," known in English as "**The Peanut Vendor**," is a Cuban son-pregón (street vendor's cry) composed by Moisés Simons in 1930. The song has been recorded more than 200 times and was the first Cuban music recording to sell a million copies in the U.S. The story follows a peanut vendor who walks the streets of Havana at night, singing his song, hoping a pretty girl will hear him and buy his peanuts.

Scripture Reading and Reflection Pastor Fran Graveson

Genesis 39:1-23 NRSVue

When Joseph had been taken down to Egypt, Potiphar, Pharaoh's chief officer, the commander of the royal guard and an Egyptian, purchased him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man and served in his Egyptian master's household. His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made everything he did successful. So he handed over everything he had to Joseph and didn't pay attention to anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome.

Sometime later, his master's wife became attracted to Joseph and said, "Sleep with me."

He refused and said to his master's wife, "With me here, my master doesn't pay attention to anything in his household; he's put everything he has under my supervision. No one is greater than I am in this household, and he hasn't denied me anything except you, since you are his wife. How could I do this terrible thing and sin against God?" Every single day she tried to convince him, but he wouldn't agree to sleep with her or even to be with her. One day when Joseph arrived at the house to do his work, none of the household's men were there. She grabbed his garment, saying, "Lie down with me." But he left his garment in her hands and ran outside. When she realized that he had left his garment in her hands and run outside, she summoned the men of her house and said to them, "Look, my husband brought us a Hebrew to ridicule us. He came to me to lie down with me, but I screamed. When he heard me raise my voice and scream, he left his garment with me and ran outside." She kept his garment with her until Joseph's master came home, and she told him the same thing: "The Hebrew slave whom you brought to us, to ridicule me, came to me; but when I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment with me and ran outside." When Joseph's master heard the thing that his wife told him, "This is what your servant did to me," he was incensed. Joseph's master took him and threw him in jail, the place where the king's prisoners were held.
While he was in jail, the LORD was with Joseph and remained loyal to him. He caused the jail's commander to think highly of Joseph. The jail's commander put all of the prisoners in the jail under Joseph's supervision, and he was the one who determined everything that happened there. The jail's commander paid no attention to anything under Joseph's supervision, because the LORD was with him and made everything he did successful.

Reflection Maricel Lucero

Prayers of the People, Pastoral Prayer, and Jesus' Prayer

Creator God, 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.

Offering
Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *An Offering* Southbridge

*Sung Response

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

*Dedication of the Offering

Loving God, you do not demand sacrifice or give us extra credit for our offerings. We present these gifts as a grateful response to your grace and a commitment to lives reflecting and spreading your transformative love. Bless them, to make the impossible possible in our eyes. Amen.

* Hymn #584 (NCH Black hymnal) *I Am the Light of the World* Strathdee

Refrain

I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!"
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
When the sages and the shepherds have found their way home,
The work of Christmas is begun.
Refrain

To find the lost and lonely one, to heal the broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below, the sky above!
Refrain

To free the prisoner from all chains, to make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
To see all God's children everywhere!
Refrain

To bring hope to every task you do, to dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old person's heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth!
Refrain

Benediction

Choral Benediction *Old Irish Blessing* Traditional Irish Folk

Postlude *The Upward Way* Smith

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***Denotes times in the service when the congregation will stand in body or spirit.**

[i] George Helton, https://thepastorsworkshop.com/liturgy/come-all-who-carry-the-weight-of-fear