United Church of Christ,
Congregational Boxborough

723 Massachusetts Ave., Boxborough, MA 01719
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No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you BELONG here.

August 30, 2026 9:30

Prelude *Be Thou My Vision* Hayes

Welcome & Announcements Pastor Fran Graveson

* Hymn #421 (NCH Black hymnal) *We Gather Together* Baker/Bayer

We gather together to ask for God's blessing,
To live in community, seeking God's will.
We come now, as sisters and brothers,
Confessing the sins that divide and the wrong in us still.

Beside us, forgiving, enabling, sustaining,
You call us, O Savior, to life that is new.
You draw us away from self-centered complaining.
You lead us and guide us in ways that are true.

All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender.
You offer us freedom, to follow or stray,
Empowering all by the hope you engender.
Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.

Call to Worship Lay Leader
One: Be still!
All: We come to quiet ourselves in this haven of holiness.
One: Be still and know…
All: We come to discern the Word which can set us free.
One: Be still and know that God is
All: Our Hope, our Help, our Refuge, and our Redeemer.[i]

Prayer of Transformation Lay Reader
Loving one, we confess that when our world shakes and our lives destabilize, our reflex is to grab control. We try to fix it, to hold it together, to build our own little fortresses of safety. How quickly we trust our plans more than your presence, our

effort more than your grace. You have said, "Be still, and know that I am God," but we become restless and afraid. Help us to find rest in in you, knowing that we are loved.

<Moment of silence>

Prayer of Assurance

You are loved. We were created to walk this journey in relationship. We were created to be loved. Take a breath. Know that in the presence of God, you do not need to fix everything; you do not need to hold it together; you do not need to build walls to protect yourself. God is present in the love all around us. Take a breath and feel loved.

* 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 *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Scripture Reading – Psalm #46 NRSVue Lay Leader

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; God utters their voice; the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations they have brought on the earth.
God makes wars cease to the end of the earth; breaks the bow and shatters the spear; burns the shields with fire.
"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth." The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

* Hymn #476 vs 1&2 (NCH Black hymnal) *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* Lowry

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul—how can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? My Savior still is living;
What though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging;
Since love commands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing.

Scripture Reading — Lay Leader

Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before God, all the earth.
Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. God will judge the peoples with equity."
Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it;
Let the field exult and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for God is coming, for God is coming to judge the earth.
God will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with the truth.

Sermon — Pastor Fran Graveson

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 — *As a Song Among the Trees* — Martin

*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

Holy One, this is our offering. May our offering change us as much as it changes the world. May we see the things we do, no matter how small or mundane, as the

way that we contribute goodness to the world, creating more life, more joy, and more love. Amen.

* Hymn #423 (NCH Black hymnal) *Great Is Your Faithfulness* Chisholm

Great is your faithfulness, O God, Creator,
With you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions they fail not;
All of your goodness forever will be.

Refrain

Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed your hand has provided, Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To your great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.
Refrain

Benediction

Postlude *Wonderful Peace* Hegarty

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

The flowers on the altar this morning are presented Tineke Vandergrift in loving memory of her sister, Alice Carman Iyer.

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[i] written by Thom Shuman, and posted on **Lectionary Liturgies**. http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/