United Church of Christ,
Congregational Boxborough

723 Massachusetts Ave., Boxborough, MA 01719
978-263-7387
https://www.boxboroughucc.org

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

August 9, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Prelude *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* Franklin Rither

Welcome & Announcements Larry Wellington

Call to Worship Lay Reader

One: People of God, we gather with a longing in our hearts—a longing for peace, for justice, for a world made whole.

All: We lift our voices, committing ourselves to peace and justice in our lives and in our community.

One: God calls us not to silence, but to compassion; not to comfort alone, but to bold, loving action.

All: We answer that call—to walk the path of reconciliation, to labor for equity, to sow seeds of peace wherever we go.

One: Let us worship the one who inspires justice, who strengthens peacemakers, and who leads us toward a world renewed.

People: We worship with gratitude, with conviction, and with hope—ready to work for peace, ready to stand for justice, ready to follow God's call.

*Hymn *We're Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table* Trad/Wellington

We're gonna sit at the welcome table.
We're gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days hallelujah!
We're gonna sit at the welcome table.
Gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days.

We're gonna feed our sisters and brothers.
We're gonna feed our sisters and brothers one of these days, hallelujah!
We're gonna feed our sisters and brothers.
Gonna feed our sisters and brothers one of these days.

We're gonna work for freedom and justice.
We're gonna work for freedom and justice one of these days, hallelujah!
We're gonna work for freedom and justice.
Gonna work for freedom and justice one of these days.

We're gonna love each other much louder.
We're gonna love each other much louder one of these days, hallelujah!
We're gonna love each other much louder.
Gonna love each other much louder one of these days.

Prayer of Transformation — Lay Reader

Holy One, Awaken in us a fierce tenderness for this world.
Where there is wounding, let us move toward it; where there is weariness, let us bring steadiness; where there is injustice, let us rise with courage.
Shape our lives into small acts of healing that ripple outward, mending what is broken and rekindling what is possible.
Turn us toward one another so that, together, the world may breathe easier.
Amen.

<Silent meditation>

Prayer of Assurance — Larry Wellington

Hear the Good News! God's love does not depend on us understanding all that is around us. God's love is always there, no matter how we make sense of our lives. God's love calls us to be humble in the process and to love one another. Love is a gift to us to be shared. You are loved. May you hold that in your heart standing in the vastness of this creation.

* 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 Matt: 19:16-22 Lay Reader

Then someone came to him and said, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother. Also, you shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "I have kept all these; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Anthem *Spiritual Medley* Traditional

Sung by Todd Waddington & Maricel Lucero

Sermon Larry Wellington

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 *Safe in the Arms of Jesus* Robert J. Hughes

*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 #570 (Black hymnal; 1-3, 6) *We Shall Overcome* Cleveland

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
We shall overcome some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall overcome some day.

We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in hand,
We'll go hand in hand some day;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We'll go hand in hand some day.

We are not afraid, we are not afraid,
We are not afraid today;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We are not afraid today.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace someday;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
We shall live in peace some day.

Benediction

Postlude *Not Alone for Mighty Empire* Thomas Chesterton

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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 given by Nancy Warren for no special reason, just because!