

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.

July 5, 2026 9:30 a.m.

Prelude *Pure in Heart, O God* Lani Smith

Welcome & Announcements Rev. Richard Tosh

Call to Worship Lay Leader

One: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
All: God is good to all. God's compassion over all of the creation.
One: All of God's creation thanks God and all of God's faithful bless God.
All: We speak of God's glorious creation and speak of God's power.
One: We make God known in or words and our behavior, God's glorious reign and splendor.
All: God reins from generation to generations.
One and All: Let us worship God with thanksgiving.

* Hymn #294 (NCH Black hymnal) *There is a Spirit in the Air* (stanzas 1, 2, 4, & 5)

There's a spirit in the air, telling Christians everywhere:
"Praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world."
Lose your shyness, find your tongue; tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.
Still the Spirit gives us light, seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today.
When a stranger's not alone, where the homeless find a home:
Praise the love that Christ revealed, living working in our world.

Prayer of Transformation
Holy God, we open our lives to you, the One who creates our lives. And we open our hearts to each other, who give our lives meaning. We often want to hide from you and from each other. We are often ashamed of our lives. We hide our strength behind our weakness. Either because we don't feel strong or because we are embarrassed by what we

have done. Open us to your love that we may live confident that we don't need to hide from you or each other. Forgive our mistakes and missteps that we may become all that you have made us to be; through your loving acceptance in Christ Jesus. Amen!
-- *Silent meditation –*

* 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.

A Word for All Ages Rev. Richard Tosh

Scripture Reading Lay Leader
Romans 7:15-25
I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.
So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Sermon Rev. Richard Tosh

Prayers of the People, Pastoral Prayer, and Jesus' Prayer
Creator God, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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.

(Please use 'your' in Jesus' Prayer this morning instead of 'thee and thou' Thank you.)

Offering

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *My Tribute (To God Be the Glory)* Andraé Crouch

*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, accept our offering this morning. Bless the money we have brought this morning, that it may be used in your name to do your will. And bless the money we have kept at home, that it may also be used to the glory of your name as well. Amen!

Communion Rev. Richard Tosh

Invitation

Words of Institution

Braking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: We thank you God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen!

* Hymn #591 (NCH Black hymnal) *This is My Song* Lloyd Stone

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;

But other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight too,
and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

Benediction

Postlude *O Worship the King* Franklin Ritter

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