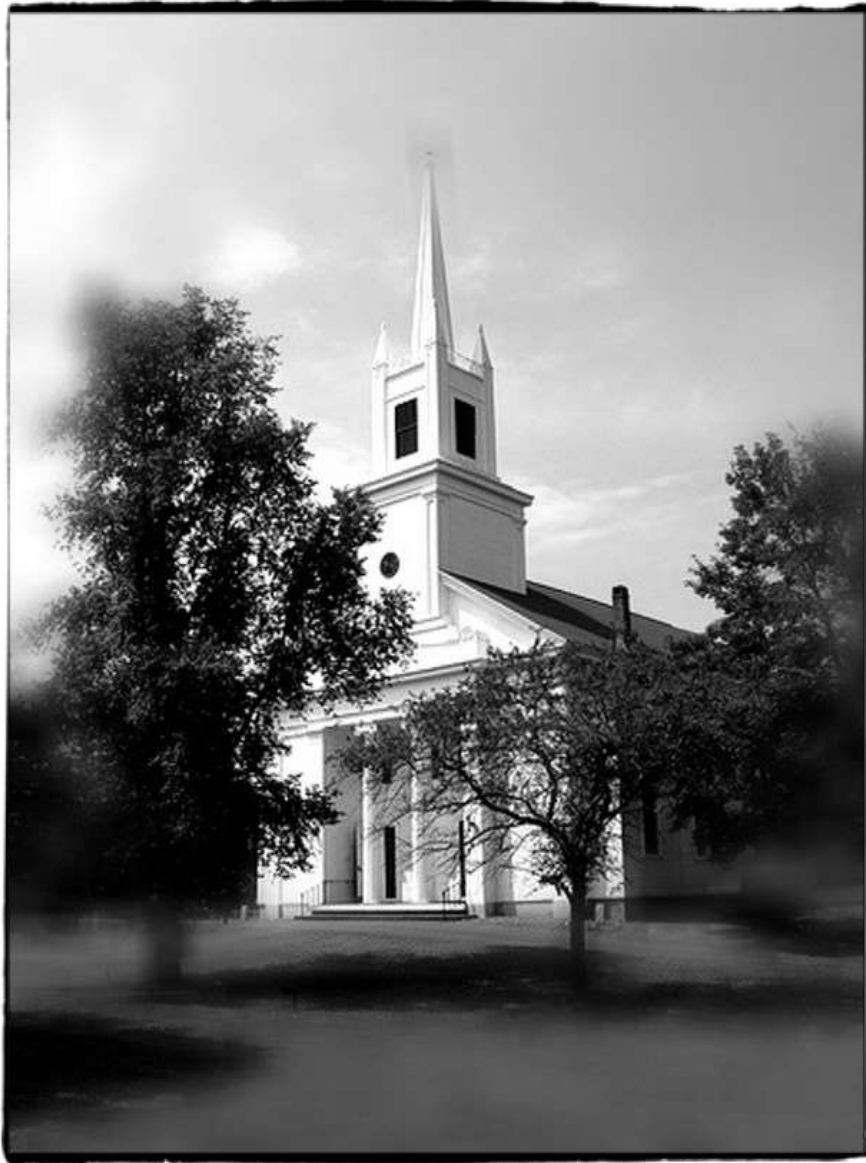


# The Congregational Church *of* Topsfield

*An Open and Affirming Congregation  
of  
the United Church of Christ*



The Congregational Church of Topsfield, *An Open and Affirming Congregation of the UCC*  
9 East Common St. Topsfield, MA, 01983 Church Office: 978-887-2101 Website: [www.topsfieldchurch.org](http://www.topsfieldchurch.org)  
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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**  
**FEBRUARY 23, 2025**  
**9:30 am**

PRELUDE *Pass'e mezzo antico* Andrea Gabrieli

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Martin Riekert

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

OPENING HYMN “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” CWM RHONDDA  
HYMN #127 (MH) View page 5, verses 1 and 2

**CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVELY):** Lay Reader, Sheryl Knutsen

Leader: Sisters and brothers – Arise.  
Lift your hearts  
Lift your eyes  
Lift your voices

**People: The living God,  
The living, moving Spirit of God  
Has called us together –  
in witness  
in celebration  
in struggle.**

Leader: Reach out toward each other.

**All: Our God reaches out to us!  
Let us worship God!**

- *Elizabeth Rice, 20<sup>th</sup>-century American churchwoman.*

SHARING OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY *Intonazione del primo tono* Andrea Gabrieli

†THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**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**

\*You may substitute God/Her \*\*You may substitute Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**\*CHILDREN AND YOUTH DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL - (MEET IN THE NARTHEX TO BE BROUGHT OVER)**

BELL ANTHEM *Allegro Glorioso* Catherine McMichael

SCRIPTURE Exodus 13:17-18 & Exodus 23:9-12 Lay Reader, Sheryl Knutsen  
View page 4 below

SERMON “All Is Changing.... Things Essentially Remain The Same” Rev. Martin Riekert

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Debts)

**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.**

\*You may substitute Creator/Mother/Maker, etc. as you choose in saying the prayer.

CLOSING HYMN “Let There Be Peace on Earth” WORLD PEACE  
HYMN #431 (MH) View page 6

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “He Leadeth Me” Gilmore/Bradbury

**Scripture Reading:**

**Exodus 13:17-18 & Exodus 23:9-12 (NRSVUE)**

<sup>17</sup> When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer, for God thought, “If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt.” <sup>18</sup> So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness bordering the Red Sea.<sup>[a]</sup> The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle.

<sup>9</sup> “You shall not oppress a resident alien; you know the heart of an alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. <sup>10</sup> “Six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield, <sup>11</sup> but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow so that the poor of your people may eat, and what they leave the wild animals may eat. You shall do the same with your vineyard and with your olive orchard. <sup>12</sup> “Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest so that your ox and your donkey may have relief and your homeborn slave and the resident alien may be refreshed.

VERSES 1 and 2

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 127

1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing  
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy  
stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on

power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en, feed me  
jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer, be thou  
Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will

till I want no more; (want no more) feed me till I want no more.  
still my strength and shield; (strength and shield) be thou still my strength and shield,  
ev - er give to thee; (give to thee) I will ev - er give to thee.

431 Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment

me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was

now. With ev - ery step I take, let

meant to be. \*With God our cre - a - tor,

this be my sol - emn vow: to take each mo - ment and

chil - dren all are we. Let us

live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.

walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

# Congregational Church of Topsfield

## Parish Care Ministry

### Prayer Listing Contact:

Kim Itz at: [prayerlisting@topsfieldchurch.org](mailto:prayerlisting@topsfieldchurch.org)

### Healing Scripture:

"And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick ....." Matthew 14:14

### Healing Prayer:

Dear Lord, I ask you to turn this weakness into strength, suffering into compassion, sorrow into joy, and pain into comfort for others. May your servants trust in your goodness and hope in your faithfulness, even in the middle of this suffering. Let all be filled with patience and joy in your presence as they wait for your healing touch.

### Please Pray For:

Doug McIlvaine - Member of CCOT  
Jane Moyer - Member of CCOT  
Diana Titus - Member of CCOT  
Cheryl Hopkins - Member of CCOT  
Joyce Talbot - Member of CCOT  
Abby Bowling - Member of CCOT  
Susan Gruber - Member of CCOT  
Dennis Heslet- Member of CCOT  
Jane Jones - Member of CCOT  
Jacob Itz - Son of Kim & Charlie Itz  
David Muise & Family- Family of Kim Itz  
Danielle Redding - Daughter of Christy & Jim Redding  
Scott Bortzfield - Son of Ruth Bortzfield  
Jack Whelan - Brother of Steve Whelan  
Steve Hoover - Son of Carol & Fred Hoover  
Dorcas Gordon - Grandmother of Rasheed Townes  
Doug Gruber - Brother of Susan Gruber  
Mark Gosbee - Son of Judi & Gary Gosbee  
Roger Talbot - Husband of Joyce Talbot  
Lynn Barnes - Sister in law of Jim Barnes  
Evelyn Grant - Sister of Sandy Whelan

Jim Quinlivan- Dad of Julie Quinlivan  
Phil and Marilyn Knowles - Parents of Scott Knowles  
Kevin Goldenbogen - Former Youth Leader at CCOT  
Trish Hudson - Former member of CCOT  
Maria Cecilia Guerra - Sister of José Guerra  
Eva - Friend of Irina Günzel-Guerra from Norway  
Andrea Sommer & Family - Relatives of Irina Günzel Guerra  
Sean Enos - Son of neighbor of Jane & Bruce Jones  
Bobby Duchano - Friend of Charles Mathison  
GML - Friend of Judi & Gary Gosbee  
Phil Sinaikin - Friend of Christa & Martin Riekert  
Mr & Mrs Sisamount - Parents of friend of Kim Itz  
Rick Anderson - Friend of CCOT  
Kay - Family friend of Ellie Losee  
Pete - Friend of Charlotte & Duane Melling

