**+ FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**An Open and affirming congregation of the**

**United Church of Christ, Saugus, Massachusetts**

**Service of Worship & Thanksgiving 10 a.m.**

**24th Sunday after Pentecost, November 19, 2017**

**\*Indicates for those who are able to, please stand.**

**Bold print indicates congregational response.**

**NCH = New Century Hymnal (black cover)**

**HOP = Spiral bound cover**

*Scripture Reader is Marilyn Panico.*

*Greeters & Ushers are Barbara & Wayne Welch.*

*Coffee Hour Hosts are Marilyn Panico & Cheryl Panico.*

*Deacon is Rick Florentino.*

*Guest Musician is Susan Taormina.*

PRELUDE Susan Taormina

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Martha Leahy

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE DRIVE MESSAGE Wayne Welch

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE HOP 119

*“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”*

***Make me a channel of your peace/Where there is hatred***

***Let me bring your love/Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord/And where there’s doubt, true faith in you.***

CALL TO WORSHIP (“God, we’re here!”):

L: Come to the table, all who are hungry!  
**P: It is God who invites us to sit at God’s table.**L: Come to the table, all who thirst for justice!  
**P: It is Jesus who can quench our thirst.**L: Come to the table, all who offer a seat to another.  
**All: It is God’s Holy Spirit who offers hospitality to all!**

**\*OPENING HYMN: “We Gather Together” HOP 189**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (“God, we’re sorry), in unison: **Holy God, we confess that at times we keep our riches to ourselves and don’t share with others as you want us to. Forgive us. Remind us that you intended for the wealth of the world to be shared equally by all, especially with those who have less than us. Bless us as we try harder to be the generous people you want us to be. Amen.**

**CHORAL RESPONSE: “Thy Word” HOP 92**

***Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (2x)***

**\***ASSURANCE OF PARDON (“God forgives us”), in unison: **Loving Spirit, there is nothing better on Earth than the feeling we get when we are freed from the burden of our sins. We feel relieved, refreshed and renewed. Thank you, Holy One. Amen.**

\*GLORY TO GOD **“Holy, Holy, Holy” NCH 277**

***Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty! Early in the morning we praise your majesty./ Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty/ God in three persons/ blessed Trinity!***

SCRIPTURE READING: John 6:1-14 (SP754; LP1655)

(SP=Small Print Bible; LP=Large Print)

MESSAGE: “Comfort Food” Rev. Martha Leahy

**PRAYER INTRO: “Sanctuary” HOP 135**

***Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary/pure and holy,***

***tried and true./With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living***

***sanctuary for you.***

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE:** “**Take My Life & Let it Be” HOP 129** ***Take my life and let it be/Consecrated Lord, to thee./ Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love/ At the impulse of thy love.***

OFFERTORY INVITATION (“God, we give back”), in unison: **Jesus saw the hunger in people’s eyes and fed them, not only with bread and fish, but with love, compassion, and forgiveness. May we do the same for each other, inside and outside the church. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY: “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” HOP 188**

**Susan Taormina**

\*DOXOLOGY: Lyrics: NCH #778; Tune: NCH #780

***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. Amen.***

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OUR GIFTS & PLEDGES (“God bless our gifts”), in unison**: Generous God, you feed us, quench our thirst, and, most of all, love us. Bless these humble gifts we bring to your altar. Help us use them to further the healing work of Jesus. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: “Let All Things Now Living” HOP 22**

\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING (“God, we will try”), in unison:

**God of Thanksgiving, we will try to put another leaf in our table, so that all who come to our door will be welcome and fed. Thanks be to you. Amen.**

BENEDICTION (“God, please bless us”):

L: Come to the table, all who are hungry!  
**P: It is God who invites us to sit at God’s table.**L: Come to the table, all who thirst for justice!  
**P: It is Jesus who can quench our thirst.**L: Come to the table, all who offer a seat to another.  
**All: It is God’s Holy Spirit who offers hospitality to all!**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: “This Little Light of Mine”**

**NCH524**

***This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine (3x)***

***Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

***Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine (3x)***

***Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

POSTLUDE

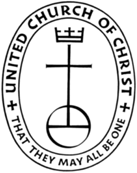
*Guest musician Susan Taormina has been playing in North Shore churches since 1985. She is an organist and a piano teacher who lives in Gloucester. Please welcome her today.*



**“Comfort Food”**

**Service of Worship & Thanksgiving**

**November 19, 2017**



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### **Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand**

# John 6:1-14

**6**Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), **2**and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. **3**Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. **4**The Jewish Passover Festival was near.

**5**When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” **6**He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.

**7**Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

**8**Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, **9**“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

**10**Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). **11**Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

**12**When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” **13**So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

**14**After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.”