**+ FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**An Open and affirming congregation of the**

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

**Service of Worship & Sacrament of Baptism 10:00 a.m.**

**21st Sunday after Pentecost, October 14, 2018**

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

**Bold print indicates congregational response.**

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

**HOP = Spiral bound cover**

*Greeter & Usher is Betty Neth.*

*Scripture Reader is Betty Neth.*

*Coffee Hour Hosts are Linda Anderson & Cassandra Anderson.*

*Deacon is Terri Leander.*

PRELUDE “Hymn Sing” Rebecca Harrold

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Martha Leahy

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE “Surely the Presence” HOP 74

***Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;***

***I can feel his mighty power and his grace.***

***I can hear the brush of angel’s wings,***

***I see glory on each face;***

***surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.***

CALL TO WORSHIP, (“God, we’re here!”):

L: How much do we love God?  
**P: We cannot count the ways.**L: How much do we love one another?  
**P: We try our best to do as God requires.**L: Jesus asks us to share all that we have if another is in need.  
**P: He says if we do, we’ll have treasure in heaven.**L: God asks us to be as generous with one another as God is with us.  
**All: With God all things are possible.**

**\*OPENING HYMN: “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” HOP 67 (2x)**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (“God, we’re sorry): **Almighty and Holy One, we confess that we cannot begin to count all our possessions. We have things in our closets, our attics, and our basements. We have things tucked away in boxes we haven’t opened in years, and still we acquire more. We have so much stuff and yet, there are those in our communities who can fit all their worldly possessions in a shopping cart. Forgive us for not recognizing how unequally divided the bounty of your world sometimes is. Help us to better share the abundance we have with those in need. 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: **Forgiving God, we draw false and fleeting comfort from our material things. True comfort comes from your compassion for us and by responding in kind to family, friend, neighbor, and stranger. By your love we are forgiven; help us likewise love and forgive others. 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!***

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (see insert)

*BAPTISM HYMN: “Now in the Days of Youth” NCH 350, v1-2-3*

SCRIPTURE: Mark 10: 17-31 (SP716, LP1570)

*SP=Small print Bible; LP=Large Print Bible*

MESSAGE: “The Great Giveaway” 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: **Generous God, we thank you for all that we have, for all of it comes from you. We gratefully return a portion of what we have to your church. May our offerings sustain and support our ministries as we do about the healing work of Jesus. Amen.**

OFFERTORY: “The Gift of Love” HOP 96

\*DOXOLOGY: NCH #778 lyrics; NCH 780 tune

***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: **Holy God, not only do we honor you by this offering, but we also honor those whom these gifts will help – those seeking to know who you are and how you work in the world. We are grateful for all good gifts which come from you. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN: “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” HOP 85**

\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING (“God, we will try”), in unison: **Loving God, we will try to give away the possessions that control us, turning our lives around and orienting ourselves toward the freedom generosity brings. Help us in our trying. Amen.**

BENEDICTION (“God, please bless us”), in unison:

L: How much do we love God?  
**P: We cannot count the ways.**L: How much do we love one another?  
**P: We try our best to do as God requires.**L: Jesus asks us to share all that we have if another is in need.  
**P: He says if we do, we’ll have treasure in heaven.**L: God asks us to be as generous with one another as God is with us.  
**All: With God all things are possible.**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: “Peace I Leave You” NCH 249, v1**

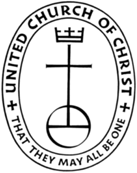
POSTLUDE Rebecca Harrold

*\*Portions of this week’s liturgy were adapted from the UCC’s Worship Ways.*

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**“The Great Giveaway”  
21st Sunday after Pentecost & Sacrament of Baptism**

**October 14, 2018**



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### **The Rich and the Kingdom of God**

**Mark 10:17-31**

**17**As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

**18**“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. **19**You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’”

**20**“Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.”

**21**Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

**22**At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

**23**Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

**24**The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! **25**It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

**26**The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

**27**Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

**28**Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!”

**29**“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel **30**will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. **31**But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

For Cassandra Marie Anderson

Daughter of Linda Anderson & Robert Anderson

**OPENING WORDS**

L: Baptism is a moment in the Christian community when we recognize the grace of God living in every single person. Through baptism, God offers us the possibility of transformation, a continuing process of renewal of body, mind and spirit, which takes place within faith communities. So it is that we come into this Christian community to be baptized.

**INVITATION AND READINGS**

L: The Sacrament of Baptism is the Christian ritual by which we demonstrate the grace of God, meaning every person is accepted into the family of God and into this church family. We joyfully invite you to be baptized in our church today. We baptize with water and the Holy Spirit, following in the way that Jesus was baptized, according to the gospels:

L: Jesus came to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. “I ought to be baptized by you,” John said. “Yet you have come to me.”

**P: Jesus said, “Let it be so for now. For in this way, we shall do all that God requires.” So John agreed.**

L: As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him. Then a voice said from heaven, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.”

**P: At another time Jesus said: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”**

**BLESSING OF THE WATER OF BAPTISM**

L: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. Bless by your Holy Spirit this young woman, baptized this day. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

**COVENANT WITH GOD AND ONE ANOTHER**

L: A covenant is integral to a relationship with God and one another, so today we state the responsibilities of parents and community to God and this young woman. As parents, do you promise to continue to guide your daughter in the life of a Christian community to worship, to hear the stories of the roots of our faith, and to be in relationship with other believers as she grows into a faith of her own?

**Parents: We will, with the help of God.**

L: (to Congregation): Now I ask this congregation, what will be your part in helping Cassandra continue to discover the grace of God?

**P: We promise our love, support and care to Cassandra and her family as she matures in Christ’s Church.**

**ACT OF BAPTISM**

L (to Parents): What name did you give your daughter at birth?

**Parents: Cassandra Marie Anderson.**

L: Cassandra Marie Anderson, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED**

L: Let us pray. Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledged to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing upon Cassandra, that you will watch over her and guide her as she matures in faith. Remind us of the promises of our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will and to serve you with joy, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**GIVING OF GIFTS**

**BAPTISM HYMN**

“Now in the Days of Youth” NCH 350, v1-2-3