



*“A Community of Faith, Hope, and Love,
Growing through Worship and Service”*

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight	
Pastor Pro Tem	Rev. Lee Atherton lee@coachrev.com	508-308-7116
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Church Website	www.cccchelmsford.org	
Church Address	1 Worthen Street, Chelmsford, MA 01824	
U.C.C. Website (United Church of Christ)	ucc.org	

Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. John A. Zachry

Director of Music/Organist: Tudor Bota

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

10 O’CLOCK A.M.

Preludes

“You Are My Hiding Place”

by Ledner, arr. by Hayes

“Lamb of God”

by Paris, arr. by Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Lynn Horton

Call to Worship

Kai Pulliam

Leader: Our God invites us to worship this morning.

People: We come to give God our praise.

Leader: Our God invites us to pray this morning.

People: We come to open our hearts to the Living God.

Leader: Our God invites us to think this morning.

People: We come to worship striving to use all the intellect that God has given us.

Leader: Our God invites us to the Table this morning.

People: We come to commune with the Holy One.

Leader: Loving God, thank you for receiving us into your presence always.

ALL: With heart, soul, mind, and strength, let us worship God!

***Opening Hymn**

“Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

#4

Unison Opening Prayer *(seated)*

We thank you, dear God, for calling us into your church to be your people. We have gathered, because we have heard your call. You have reached out to us in Jesus Christ, and you have filled us with your Spirit. We turn to you, seeking to love others as we have been loved by you. Empower us to worship and serve you, walking faithfully upon this earth, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (v. 1, 3)

#16

Children’s Message

Pastor Lee

The Morning Offering

Chancel Choir Anthem *“How Great is Our God”* See insert

***Doxology** *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”* #46

Traditional Lyrics:

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.

Alternative Lyrics:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication** Lora Strobel

Generous God, we bring you our offerings today, and ask that you bless them. Bless the money in the plates that it might be saved, stewarded and spent in ways that honor you. Bless the tasks we will undertake this week that we might be coworkers in your coming kingdom. Bless the hours of our week – 167 until we meet again – that our lives may be our offering to you. Bless us to be blessings in this world. Amen.

In Our Own Words *Confirmation Paper Excerpts* Bennett Acheson and Maddie Knight

The Holy Scriptures Acts 8:14-17 Pew Bible p. 892

A Message for Our Confirmands Pastor Lee

Song of Commitment *“Step by Step”* See insert

The Rite of Confirmation for the Confirmation Class of 2024

Bennett Acheson	Maddie Knight
Tristan Sean Campbell	Kai Pulliam
Lucas Hart	Lora Strobel

Litany for Confirmation Rev. Lee Atherton

The Congregational Welcome Pastor Lee

We welcome you with joy into the fellowship of this church. We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love, and be witnesses of our Risen Savior.

The Salem Church Covenant of 1629 Pastor Lee

We covenant with the Lord and one with another, and do bind ourselves in the presence of God, to walk together in all his ways, according as God is pleased to reveal himself unto us in his blessed word of truth.

Introducing Our Confirmands

Presentation of Gifts

Kenny Pantuso, Senior Deacon

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper (based on Luke 24:28-29)

Pastor: The Table is set, O God,

People: the bread freshly baked, the cup brim-full.

Pastor: Your people are assembled; our hunger is great.

People: Look with love on us, your own, the apple of your eye.

Pastor: Remember us, as we remember you and praise you for your love:

People: your mighty deeds, your faithfulness, your kindness without end.

Pastor: Remember us now, as with grateful hearts we remember Jesus, the greatest of all your gifts to us. We remember he was laid in a grave.

People: A great stone sealed his tomb.

Pastor: We remember that the women came early in the morning, the third day.

People: They did not find him among the dead.

Pastor: We remember that disciples met him, a stranger on the road.

People: He explained the scriptures to them: their hearts were ablaze.

Pastor: They said to him, “Stay with us, for it is evening.”

People: He went in with them and sat at their table.

Pastor: There he took bread and gave thanks for it. He broke it and gave it to them.

People: They knew him when he broke the bread.

Pastor: Now, most gracious God, send your Spirit to bless this bread and cup, signs of his body and poured-out life. Make them for us reconciling food and drink.

People: Bless us also, who share this meal so that, overjoyed by his presence, and nourished by his life, we may become servants of his peace until the New Day of justice comes, and every creature beholds it.

Pastor: This we pray in His name, who taught us to pray...

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.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

***Closing Hymn** *“Here I Am, Lord”* #452

***Benediction and Threefold Amen** #312

Postlude *“Adagio”* Couperin

You may stay and enjoy the postlude, or you may feel free to leave quietly.

*Please rise in body and/or spirit

Warrant for the Annual Meeting on May 19, 2024

of Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, United Church of Christ

To the Members and Friends of Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford:

The Annual Meeting of the Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, United Church of Christ, will be held on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall to act upon the following articles:

- Article 1 To elect a Moderator.
- Article 2 To celebrate the events of the past year.
- Article 3 To act upon the recommendations of the Nominating Committee to elect the officers of the church.
- Article 4 To receive the reports of all committees.
- Article 5 To approve the budget for the fiscal year 2024 – 2025.
- Article 6 To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.

(signed)
Val King, Clerk



Welcome to Central Congregational Church!

No matter who you are, or where you are on your spiritual journey, you're welcome here!

Good morning!

Welcome to Sunday morning worship!

Children

- ☺ PreK/K will be dismissed for Sunday School after the Children's Message. Grades 1-4 will begin class at 10:00 AM and then come back to watch the confirmations. The Holy Cows and God Squad will be staying in the worship service.
- ☺ Children are always welcome in our services of worship and "Busy Bags" for kids are available in the narthex (lobby).

Deacons are available during Sunday services. Reach out to any of them with questions or concerns. You can spot them wearing a [blue name tag](#).

Greeters:	Tristan Campbell, Lucas Hart, Lora Strobel
Liturgist:	Kai Pulliam
Nursery Care:	Catherine Boivin
Coffee Hour Hosts:	The Communications Committee

If you would like to sign up to be a greeter, host coffee hour, donate worship service flowers, and/or dedicate the steeple lighting, please see the sign ups in Fellowship Hall or our online signup. If you can help the nursery, please contact Jennifer Hart.

Many thanks to those who enrich our morning together.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

Annual Meeting and Potluck | Sunday, May 19 | 11:30 AM | Fellowship Hall - We will have a potluck to and celebrate the church year while we conduct church business. Everyone is welcome to attend, although only members can vote on the articles in the warrant. We encourage everyone to attend as your attendance and votes help determine how things are done in the church. If you have questions, please contact Dick Papenfuss: dickandkaren@verizon.net | 603-577-1497

- Nursery care will be provided and an activity for older children.
- The church will provide drinks.

TODAY! Down East Maine Mission Planning | Sun, May 5 | 7:00 PM | 9 Worthen

If you are interested in learning more about the mission trip or are planning to attend this year's trip, please come! We travel August 4-10, 2024.



ChristCare | Mondays, May 6 & 20 | 7:00 PM via Zoom – We will be reading and discussing Ann Lamott's book, *Help, Thanks, Wow*. If you are looking for a way to form closer bonds with a small group within the church, who will walk alongside you on your faith journey, you are invited to join ChristCare. The Monday evening group is currently made up of women; the Sunday morning group consists of men. Nonbinary folks are encouraged to try the group that sounds more comfortable to them.

Collation for Daphne Freeman – Saturday May 11 | Following the 10:00 AM Funeral

Donations are requested: finger sandwiches, cheese & crackers (including gluten-free options), veggies & dip, fruit, desserts. Set-up, kitchen, and serving helps also needed. Contact Lynn Horton if you can help: lynn@terpssoft.com | 978-256-8524



KiSeLo (Kindness, SErvice, LOve) Luncheon | Wed, May 22 | 12:30 PM – All women of the church are invited for our May Luncheon at Princeton Station in North Chelmsford. Please RSVP with Mary Harrison 978-256-2624. If you have questions, please speak with Karen Papenfuss: 603-577-1497. We hope to see you there!

➤ **Sunday School Coordinator, Jennifer Hart** is looking for someone who has a completed CORI and could cover her duties on **June 2**. If you can help, please contact Jennifer: SofHarts@christjenn.net

Stewardship Campaign – The campaign is complete and we are thrilled to share the campaign results! 103 pledges were received; 53 pledges increased; 7 new pledges; pledges for 2024-25 fiscal year totaled \$270,404 versus \$255,168 last year (an increase of \$15,236)! More information can be found in the May Beacon Newsletter and weekly announcements email.



May Movie Group | Mondays, May 13 & 27 | 7:00 PM – The CCC Movie Group is open to all! Watch the movie(s) on your own, then join the group on Zoom at 7:00 pm on "Movie Mondays" to discuss. Please contact Lynn Horton for the Zoom link, if you have questions, or if you have difficulty accessing the movie! The May movies are: 5/13: *City of Joy*; 5/27: *Grey Owl*



Kids Club | Friday, May 10 | 6:00 – 7:00 PM | Fellowship Hall - Please come join us for fellowship, fun, games, and pizza. Open to all kids PreK-4th grade. Signup online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050545A4A82EA2FF2-49342026-kids> or click the QR Code with your phone's camera.



Contact Samantha Shields with any questions, Samantha.Shields@CCCchelmsford.org



Cards & Notes for Pastor Rich - Cards and notes of encouragement for Pastor Rich can be dropped off at the church office, mailed to the church, or directly to Pastor Rich (and his family). Notes of encouragement are such a blessing! Loving words of support and encouragement are always appreciated by Pastor Rich and Alisa, too! Thank you, CCC family!!



Don Harbison's 2024 Pan-Mass Challenge Campaign - This year I will be riding with Jenna's husband Mike with a goal of raising \$15,000 for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. **I'm riding in honor of Kit, Jenna, Pastor Rich, Cindy Kunkel, and Ted Buswick among many others who have been affected by cancer.** If you decide to sponsor my ride, and for all the other details including my longer statement regarding 'Why I PMC,' <https://profile.pmc.org/dh0129> **100% of your donation goes straight to Dana-Farber. THANK YOU! ~Don Harbison**

Social Action and Mission Committee shouts out a bit thank you to the Troop 75 scouts who participated in the St. Paul's Kitchen meal on April 29. We heard from the people who run the kitchen that the clients commented the "food was delicious" and they enjoyed seeing young people helping serve. Everyone did a great job and it was a service to our church (to provide the shepherd's pies) as well as to the Lowell community! Thanks also to our loyal brownie brigade, AKA the Holy Cows! ~Julie Carney for SAM Committee



Tuesday Lunch Bunch | 11:45 AM in Room 202
Bring your lunch for fun and fellowship!

Chancel Choir Anthem *“How Great is Our God”* by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, and Ed Cash

The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty; let all the earth rejoice,
all the earth rejoice.

He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide and trembles at His voice,
and trembles at His voice.

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!

And all will see how great, how great is our God!

And age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;

Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.

The God-head, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
the Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.

How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!

And all will see how great, how great is our God! Name above all names,
worthy of all praise. My heart will sing: How great is our God.

Name above all names, worthy of all praise.

My heart will sing: How great is our God. (repeat)

Chancel Choir Anthem *“How Great is Our God”* by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, and Ed Cash

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And all will see how great, how great is our God! Name above all names,
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Name above all names, worthy of all praise.

My heart will sing: How great is our God. (repeat)

Step by Step

G D/F# C/E D7 G

O God, you are my God, and I will ev-er praise you. O

Detailed description: This system contains the first line of music. The treble clef staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving bass lines. Chord symbols G, D/F#, C/E, D7, and G are placed above the treble staff.

G D/F# C/E D7 G

God, you are my God, and I will ev-er praise you. I will

Detailed description: This system contains the second line of music. The treble clef staff continues the melody. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment. Chord symbols G, D/F#, C/E, D7, and G are placed above the treble staff.

Em C/E D C Am C/D

seek you in the morn-ing, and I will learn to walk in your ways; and

Detailed description: This system contains the third line of music. The treble clef staff features a melodic line with some slurs. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment. Chord symbols Em, C/E, D, C, Am, and C/D are placed above the treble staff.

G D/F# Am7 D7 C/D G

step by step you'll lead me, and I will fol-low you all of my days.

Detailed description: This system contains the fourth and final line of music. The treble clef staff concludes the melody. The bass clef staff concludes the accompaniment. Chord symbols G, D/F#, Am7, D7, C/D, and G are placed above the treble staff.

Step by Step

G D/F# C/E D7 G

O God, you are my God, and I will ev-er praise you. O

Detailed description: This system contains the first line of music on the right page. The treble clef staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving bass lines. Chord symbols G, D/F#, C/E, D7, and G are placed above the treble staff.

G D/F# C/E D7 G

God, you are my God, and I will ev-er praise you. I will

Detailed description: This system contains the second line of music on the right page. The treble clef staff continues the melody. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment. Chord symbols G, D/F#, C/E, D7, and G are placed above the treble staff.

Em C/E D C Am C/D

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