

THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to Communion

*Communion Hymn “One Bread, One Body” #393 Blue

The 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 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.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

The Deacons will distribute the bread and the cup. When all are served, we will partake in unison.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, we thank you for your presence in this holy feast. May we know the presence of Jesus among us. Send us from this table, nourished and restored, ready not to be served but to serve, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*Sending Hymn “Love Divine All Loves Excelling” #517 Blue

*Blessing and Benediction Pastor Lee

*Three-Fold Amen

Postlude “Adagio” by Bach Tudor



Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Chelmsford, Massachusetts

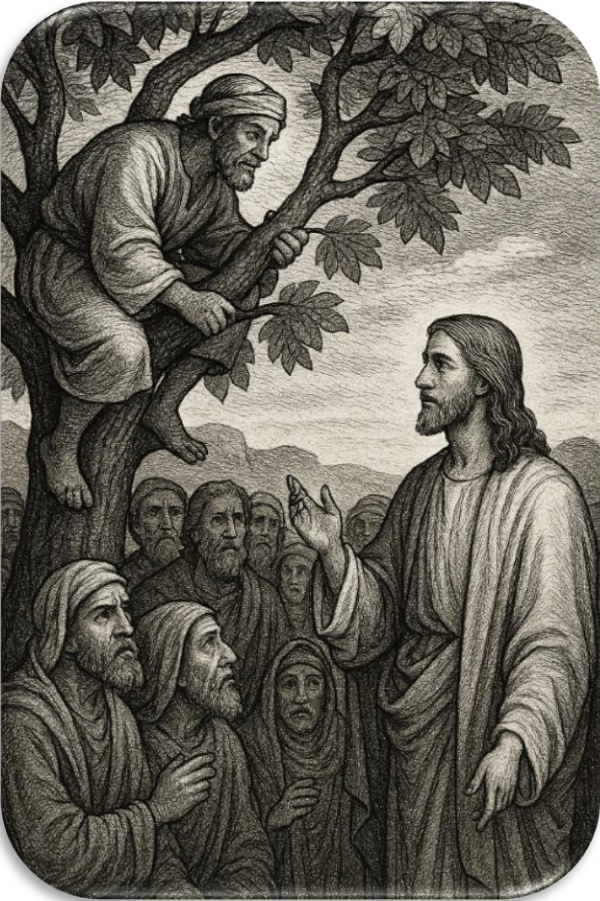
An Open and Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, November 2, 2025

10 o’clock a.m.

“Let the little children come unto me.” (from the Gospel of Mark) Continued on back



Welcome to Central Congregational Church, where no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome. If you are visiting us today, know that we are glad to have you. As we worship together, please note that an * indicates a time to stand as you are able. Sentences in **bold** are to be spoken by the congregation.

GATHERING		
Prelude	“Create in Me a Good Heart” arr. by Hayes “Isn’t He?” arr. by Hayes	Tudor Bota, Music Director
Welcome and Announcements		Lynn Horton
Ring the Bell		
Poem	“All Saints Day” by Maya Anthony	
*Opening Hymn	“Zacchaeus Was a Tax Man”	See Insert
Call to Worship		Bryan Norman, Liturgist
We gather in awe standing in the presence of the One who crafted the stars, the mountains, the seas.		
Lord, your creation boasts of your goodness.		
We gather in faith, trusting that the One who has held little children holds our lives in the heart of God.		
Lord, your creation boasts of your love.		
We gather in need, seeking the One who longs for justice to grace each and every person in creation.		
God shares divine Grace, Peace, presence, and love.		
Let us gather our hearts and minds and prepare to worship the awesome God of all Creation!		
<i>All: Amen.</i>		
Calling Upon God		Bryan
Holy God, Divine Seeker of Our Hearts, we saunter about in our lives, seeking what’s shiny instead of pursuing you. Even so, you still search for us. You’ll climb trees with us, sit in the dust with us, and journey on long roads with us. You abide in our dwelling places, no matter their size or state of order. Today, we welcome you in our spaces: from the churches where we sing your praise to our homes where we rest for the upcoming week. May we recognize your presence and calling in our lives. Amen.		
Sharing Christ’s Peace		Rev. Lee Atherton
The peace of Christ be with you all.		
And also with you.		

PROCLAIMING		
Sunday School Scripture	Luke 19:1-10	
Children’s Message		Pastor Lee
Sending Hymn	“Go Now In Peace”	
Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.		

Prayer for Illumination		Pastor Lee
Scripture Lesson	Luke 19:1-10 (from ‘The Message’)	Pew Bible p. 854
Response	This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.	
Message		Pastor Lee
A Prayer for All Saints Sunday		
Hymn	“For All the Saints”	#637 Blue

Joys and Concerns	
Prayers of the People	
Prayer Response	“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” (sung twice)
Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place,	
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.	

RESPONDING IN FAITH AND ACTION	
Call to Transformation	Pastor Lee
Prayer of Transformation	
Surrounded by so many seductions, Patient God, we find it difficult to see you in our lives. Justice has a hard time surviving when there is so much persecution and affliction towards the little ones of the world. Our neighborhoods, our families, even our churches, are filled with strife and contention. We cry for help, Listening God; forgive us! As we wait for your grace to fill our lives, may we open our hearts to your hope and healing, always giving thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.	
Assurance of Grace	Pastor Lee

Invitation to Generosity	Bryan
Offertory	“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” arr. by Hogan Don Desfosse, Soloist
He’s got the whole world in His hands, He’s got the whole wide world in His hands,	
He’s got the whole world in His hands, He’s got the whole world in His hands!	
He’s got you an’ me, sister in His hands, He’s got you an’ me, brother, in His Hands,	
He’s got you an’ me, sister in His hands, He’s got the whole world in His hands!	
He’s got the little tiny baby in His hands. He’s got the little tiny baby in His hands.	
He’s got the little tiny baby in His hands, he’s got the whole world in His hands!	
He’s got all of us here in His hands. He’s got all of us here His hands, He’s got all of us here, in His hands. He’s got the whole world in His hands! He’s got the whole world in His hands.	
*Doxology	“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #46-48 Blue
<i>Feel free to sing the version of the lyrics that is familiar to you.</i>	

*Prayer of Dedication	
Continued on back	



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

Interim Pastor	Rev. Lee Atherton	508-308-7116	Pastor-Lee@cccchelmsford.org
Director of Music	Tudor Bota	978-772-3173	tudorbota@gmail.com
Office Administrator	Peggy Kelly	978-256-5931	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org
Sunday School Coord.	Jennifer Hart	610-781-2074	jennifer.hart@cccchelmsford.org
Custodian	Juarez Gomes	978-957-5075	
Council President	Lynn Horton	978-256-8524	lynn@terpsoft.com
Church Phone & Email	978-256-5931	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org	
Church Address	1 Worthen Street, Chelmsford, MA 01824		
U.C.C. Website	ucc.org (United Church of Christ)		

Pastoral Search Committee:

Martha Chenault
Glenn Dissinger
Sue Houde
John Lamplough
Emmett Lyons
April McCarthy
Barbara Reilly
Dorinda Toppan, Chairperson

We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming into the full life and ministry of the church persons of every race, culture, age, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, marital status, education, and economic status. We especially and intentionally welcome all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church and society.



Scan the QR code to give your offering electronically and support our ministry.
Thank you for your generosity!



Welcome to Central Congregational Church!

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

Good morning and welcome to Sunday morning worship!

We are glad you are here to worship together! Please join in Fellowship Hall after the service for food and fellowship. This service of worship is being livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. If you do not wish to be visible on the internet, please choose a seat in the balcony.

Children

- 😊 Children are always welcome in our services of worship.
- 😊 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.

Greeter(s): Elizabeth and Steve Hartigan

Liturgist: Bryan Norman

Deacon of the Day: Joe Chapman

Coffee Hour Hosts: Christian Education Committee

Worship Service Flowers: The flowers today are given by Ray Peterson & Dory Toppan as they celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary on November 3. 🌸

Many thanks to all who enrich our morning together.

Announcements and Events – Sunday, November 2, 2025

 **Food Donations Needed** - With the impending loss of government-supported food sources, your help in meeting the need is greater than ever. Central Congregational Church collects and delivers non-perishable food donations to the Greater Lowell Food Pantry regularly. Please consider bringing canned goods and other non-perishable foods to CCC. You **can** help feed the hungry who live right in our community. Thank you!

 **Seeking Apple Pie Preppers** - We are delighted to announce the return of CCC-baked fresh apple pies to the 2025 Holiday Fair! We are seeking **6-10 pie crust dough preparers**, and, on **Friday, Nov. 21 at 9AM**, volunteers to gather in the new kitchen to peel and chop apples and bake the pies! Sign-up sheet available during Coffee Hour or contact Christine McNamara, Therese Burdo, or Lynn Horton Lynn@terpssoft.com.

 **Jewelry for CCC Holiday Fair** – As you clean out your jewelry box, please remember to donate unbroken treasures during coffee hour or leave them in the church office. If you have any questions, please see Beth Jarok, Merri Robison, or Judith Barnes. **Donations are requested by November 16.**

 **Gobble & Gratitude Potluck | Sat, Nov 15 | 5:30 PM | Fellowship Hall** - Join us in Fellowship Hall for Gobble & Gratitude Potluck! Bring a friend. Bring a dish to share. We will share food, talk, play, and talk some more. Please contact Jennifer Hart for more information: 5ofharts@chris-jenn.net.

 **CCC Holiday Fair | Sat, Nov 22 | Fellowship Hall** - Join us for the Annual CCC Holiday Fair 2025!! Details can be found in the November edition of The Beacon Newsletter.
➤ **Note:** If you have been working on a craft for the church fair, please get it to Karen Papenfuss **by November 15.** Thank you.

 **Advent & Christmas Small Group Gatherings** – As we journey through this holy season, we invite you to help our church family connect in meaningful ways. We’re forming small groups for Advent and Christmas — gatherings where we can share stories, reflect on scripture, and discover the sacred in our everyday lives. We’d love to have a handful of groups meeting at different days and times — some in homes, others at the church. No experience is needed! A simple leadership guide is provided, so anyone can host or facilitate. If you’re interested in leading or opening your home for a group, please reach out to Pastor Lee. Together, let’s make this a season of connection, reflection, and sacred wonder.

 **Christmas Tree Sales** - Christmas trees are scheduled to be delivered on Mon, Nov 24. We will be looking for many people to help unload the truck. The stand will be set up on Fri, Nov 28 at 9AM, with sales beginning that day at noon. Volunteers are needed. Please speak with Glenn or Margie Dissinger and the November Beacon Newsletter for more information.



Lowell Transitional Living Center – The Social Action and Missions Committee (SAM) will be sponsoring the Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC) for the month of November 2025. LTLC, located on Middlesex Street in Lowell, is an emergency shelter that provides 24-hour staff support for unaccompanied adults experiencing homelessness. In addition to emergency shelter, LTLC provides meals, showers, clothing, personal hygiene items, and case management with referrals to community-based resources including medical and behavioral health services. Case managers work with clients to develop a housing plan to identify housing opportunities, employment placement, access to benefits and crisis intervention.



Pastor Rich Gift Card Ministry - One of the ways the congregation has directly helped individuals with food insecurity is through the giving of Market Basket gift cards. The gift cards are purchased through the Diaconate Good Samaritan Fund and more recently through the Pastor Rich Gift Card Ministry, which was established to honor his wish that any memorial gifts in excess of those needed to purchase the bench in his memory be used toward providing gift cards to persons in need. **Currently, the balance in the fund is only enough to last through December.** Without your continued donations, CCC will be unable to assist others through this vital ministry. Checks can be made payable to CCC, with “RK Gift Card Ministry” in the memo line and placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.



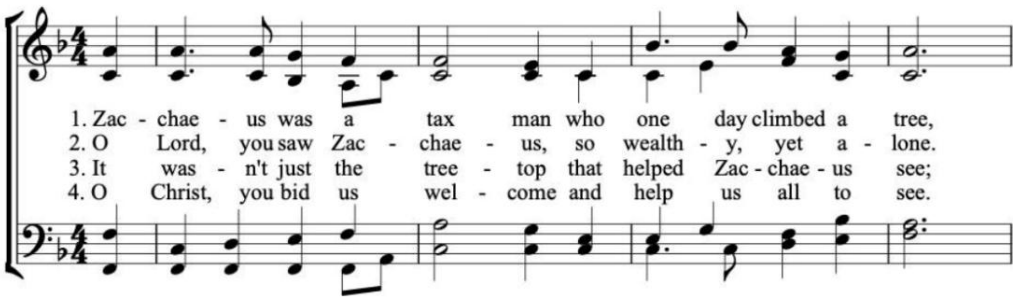
Sunday School Needs Volunteers – Nursery Coordinator, PreK-Kindergarten teacher, and people willing to substitute or be a floater are needed. Please see Jennifer Hart.

THIS WEEK AT CCC

Tues, Nov 4	Knitters & Crocheters	10:30 AM	Parlor
	Lunch Bunch	11:45 AM	Room 202
	Social Action & Missions Cmte.	7:00 PM	Room 302
	Sonlight Band Rehearsal	7:30 PM	Sanctuary
Wed, Nov 5	Christian Education Committee	7:15 PM	Room 202
Thurs, Nov 6	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:45 PM	Room 312
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM	Sanctuary

Pastor Lee’s Office Hours: Sundays, 8:15–1:00; Tuesdays, 9:00–2:00; Wednesdays 9:00–12:00. She is also available by appointment.

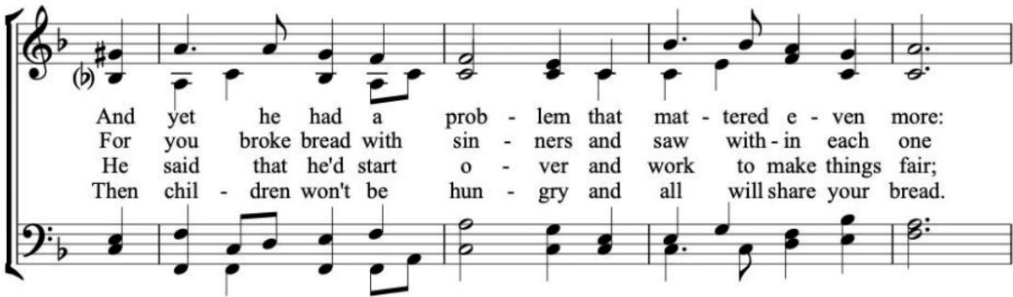
Opening Hymn "Zacchaeus Was a Tax Man"



1. Zac - chae - us was a tax man who one day climbed a tree,
2. O Lord, you saw Zac - chae - us, so wealth - y, yet a - lone.
3. It was - n't just the tree - top that helped Zac - chae - us see;
4. O Christ, you bid us wel - come and help us all to see.



for he was short in stat - ure and said he could not see.
You said, "Come down, and hur - ry! I'm com - ing to your home."
Your love and wel - come showed him how dif - ferent life could be.
May we re - spond by build - ing a just so - ci - e - ty.



And yet he had a prob - lem that mat - tered e - ven more:
For you broke bread with sin - ners and saw with - in each one
He said that he'd start o - ver and work to make things fair;
Then chil - dren won't be hun - gry and all will share your bread.

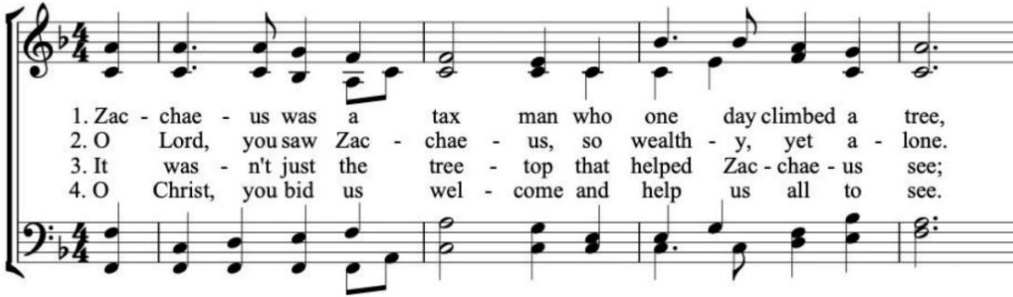


he did - n't see the suf - fering his greed had caused the poor.
a per - son loved and treas - ured, God's daugh - ter or God's son.
he'd speak the truth, bring jus - tice, and find new ways to share.
Then those who now must strug - gle will live in joy in - stead.

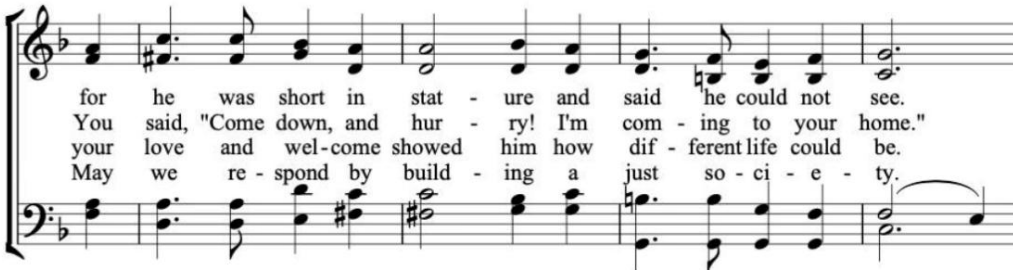
WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2010 (Luke 19:1-10)
MUSIC: Arthur H. Mann, 1881

ANGEL'S STORY
76.76 D
alternate tune: AURELIA

Opening Hymn "Zacchaeus Was a Tax Man"



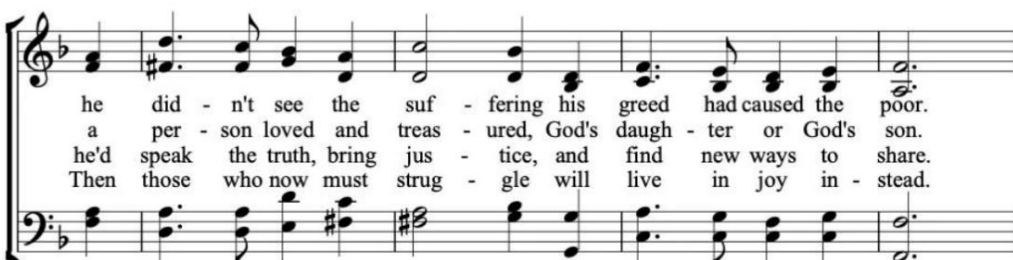
1. Zac - chae - us was a tax man who one day climbed a tree,
2. O Lord, you saw Zac - chae - us, so wealth - y, yet a - lone.
3. It was - n't just the tree - top that helped Zac - chae - us see;
4. O Christ, you bid us wel - come and help us all to see.



for he was short in stat - ure and said he could not see.
You said, "Come down, and hur - ry! I'm com - ing to your home."
Your love and wel - come showed him how dif - ferent life could be.
May we re - spond by build - ing a just so - ci - e - ty.



And yet he had a prob - lem that mat - tered e - ven more:
For you broke bread with sin - ners and saw with - in each one
He said that he'd start o - ver and work to make things fair;
Then chil - dren won't be hun - gry and all will share your bread.



he did - n't see the suf - fering his greed had caused the poor.
a per - son loved and treas - ured, God's daugh - ter or God's son.
he'd speak the truth, bring jus - tice, and find new ways to share.
Then those who now must strug - gle will live in joy in - stead.

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2010 (Luke 19:1-10)
MUSIC: Arthur H. Mann, 1881

ANGEL'S STORY
76.76 D
alternate tune: AURELIA

HYMN LYRICS

Opening Hymn

“Zacchaeus Was a Tax Man”

Zacchaeus was a tax man who one day climbed a tree, for he was short in stature and said he could not see. And yet he had a problem that mattered even more: he didn’t see the suffering his greed has caused the poor.

O Lord, you saw Zacchaeus, so wealthy, yet alone. You said, “Come down, and hurry! I’m coming to your home.” For you broke bread with sinners and saw within each one a person loved and treasured, God’s daughter or God’s son.

It wasn’t just the treetop that helped Zacchaeus see; your love and welcome showed him how different life could be. He said that he’d start over and work to make things fair; he’d speak the truth, bring justice, and find new ways to share.

O Christ, you bid us welcome and help us all to see. May we respond by building a just society. Then children won’t be hungry and all will share your bread. Then those who now must struggle will live in joy instead.

Hymn

“For All the Saints”

For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed, thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might: their strength and solace in the well-fought fight; thou, in the darkness drear, the one true light. Alleluia, alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine! We live and struggle, they in glory shine; yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia, alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the conflict long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song, and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia, alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pearl streams in the countless host, singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia, alleluia!

Communion Hymn

“One Bread, One Body”

Refrain: One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. *[Refrain]*

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. *[Refrain]*

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all. *[Refrain]*

Sending Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown; Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest; take away the love of sinning, alpha and omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.