

Joys and Concerns

Music

Pastoral Prayer and 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."

Music

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Hymn

Blessing and Benediction

Three-Fold Amen

Postlude

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

"Same Love" by Paul Baloche & Michael Rossback

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Feel free to sing the version of the lyrics that is familiar to you.

"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"

"Allemande" by Bach

Pastor Lee

See below

Pastor Lee

See below

Joe Chapman

SonLight Band

#46-48 Blue

Pastor Lee

See insert

Tudor

Kyrie Eleison

Greek Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 English Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 Lord, have mer - cy.



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"

Ministers: The Congregation

Interim Pastor: Rev. Lee Atherton

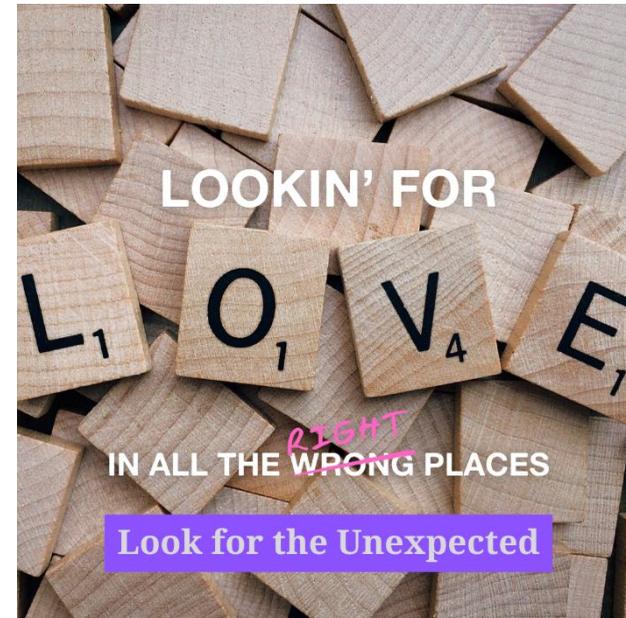
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. John A. Zachry

Director of Music/Organist: Tudor Bota

Sunday, March 29, 2026

Palm Sunday

10 o'clock a.m.



Palm Sunday

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.

Order of the Service of Worship

WE GATHER

Prelude "Glorify Their Name," "Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down" arr. Hayes Tudor Bota
Welcome and Announcements Lynn Horton
Ringling the Bell

THRESHOLD MOMENT
"Show Us How to Love"

Song
Hearts open, minds awake,
change us now for heaven's sake.
Leave us not alone in hatred's wake.
Show us how to love.
Show us how to love.
Show us how, show us how to love.

Reflecting Rev. Lee Atherton
Song "Show Us How to Love"

Eyes open, shocked awake,
much to learn from our mistakes.
Draw us closer in our heartache.
Show us how to love.
Show us how to love.
Show us how, show us how to love.

Palm Procession and Hymn "We Are Walking" #442 Blue
Call to Worship` Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (adapted) Lora Strobel

Liturgist: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!
Adults: Let all the children say, "God's love is forever."
Children: God's love is forever!

Liturgist: Open up the gates! That we may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.
Adults: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. Let all the children say, "Open up the gates!"
Children: Open up the gates!

Liturgist: I thank you that you have answered me, O God, and have become my salvation.
All: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
Adults: This is the Lord's doing; Let the children say, "It is a marvelous thing!"
Children: It is a marvelous thing!

Liturgist: This is the day that the LORD has made;
Adults: Let the children say, "Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"
Children: "Let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

Liturgist: Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
Adults: Let the children say, "Save us, Hosanna!"
Children: "Save us, hosanna!"

Liturgist: Blessed are they who come in the name of the LORD.
All: God has given us light. So let the festival procession of branches go up to the altar!

Adults: Let the children say, Give thanks to God!
Children: Give thanks to God! For God is good!
All: For God is good! God's love endures forever! God's love endures forever!
Liturgist: Here comes LOVE!
All: Here comes LOVE!

Passing of the Peace Pastor Lee

WE PROCLAIM

Special Music by Our Youth
"Into My Heart" by Harry D. Clarke Youth Choir
"Clap Your Hands" by Jimmy Owens Youth Choir

Children's Message Pastor Lee
Sending Song

Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Song of Preparation "Love Us Into Fullness" v. 1
Love us into fullness, touch us with your grace; Jesus, in your mercy, draw us to your face.
Scripture Isaiah 55:8-9 Pew Bible p. 598
Song of Preparation "Love Us Into Fullness" v. 2
Love us into fullness, hold us in your care, cheer us with your presence, here and everywhere.
Second Reading Matthew 21:1-11 Pew Bible p. 802
Song "Love Us Into Fullness" v. 3
Love us into fullness, and we will be strong; Jesus, walk beside us, fill our hearts with song.

Sermon Pastor Lee

WE RESPOND

***Hymn** "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" #192 Blue
Stewardship Moment Dick Papenfuss



“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
Interim Office Admin	Margie Dissinger	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 us 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): Monique Billingsley

Head Usher: Curtis Bates

Livestream Operator: Vivian Hussey

Liturgist: Lora Strobel

Deacon of the Day: Joe Chapman

Coffee Hour Hosts: Danielle Albon & Erin McNally

Flowers Donated by Monique Billingsley in honor of her mother Elisabeth Phinney's 91st birthday

Many thanks to all who enrich our morning together.

Announcements and Events – Sunday, March 29, 2026

“Love Came Down” Easter Concert is today at 3:00 PM. Free will offering with a reception to follow the concert.

Sign ups for the Easter Vigil are in the Fellowship Hall. See the Tuesday and Friday email announcements for a Zoom link for prayer for the Vigil Prayers at 5:45 pm on Saturday, April 4.

Adopt a Lily (or a Tulip)!

In order for the sanctuary to be filled with the welcoming lilies and tulips on Easter morning, we had to place an order a month ahead of time. At this point we have flowers that are waiting to be in memory of, or in honor of someone important to you. Please consider adopting one and taking it home to care for, with an adoption fee of \$20 per plant.



Last day is today, Sunday, March 29!

Please contact Sue Sarafinas to place your order: 4sueth@gmail.com | 617-480-9130. We look forward to a beautifully decorated sanctuary for Easter morning!

~Sue Sarafinas, Sanctuary Committee

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal will be in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 pm. Good Friday Service will be at 6:30 PM on Friday, April 3rd in the sanctuary.

Make A Difference Week Meeting

Come one, Come all - who want to be part of Make a Difference Week this summer! We are having a meeting on April 12 in room 202 after the morning service. Grab an ice cream sundae from CE in Fellowship Hall and join us at the table. I am looking for: service ideas, volunteers, a theme for the week & Friday activities. Unlike past years, we will have a program for children PreK through 2nd grade. 3rd through 8th grade will do some projects off campus. The program will be from 9 am to 4 pm the week of August 24-28. Contact Jennifer Hart (jennifer.hart@cccchelmsford.org) for more information.



March is Stewardship Month

Everyone should have received their Stewardship letter and Pledge card two weeks ago. Steve Hartigan spoke in worship last Sunday about how we all must reflect on the amount we are able to give. We are asking everyone who is able to increase their pledge by \$7 per week. While this is more than we have asked for in prior years, we have lost significant pledges over the last year, reducing CCC's income during a time when operating costs are rising. Without any other external funding, we rely on the congregation to keep CCC prosperous and to support our missions. We are also asking everyone who contributed to the capital campaign, to consider giving an additional amount if able, to help fund next year's budget. Please prayerfully consider your level of support for the upcoming fiscal year on Stewardship Sunday, April 12. *Cynthia Dorman*

One Great Hour of Sharing also happens in March. This is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response. Please put OGHS in the memo line of your check when donating.

150th Anniversary Celebration & Timeline

As part of our church's 150th anniversary in April we are putting together a visual timeline of our church history covering 1870s through 2026 for display in Fellowship Hall. This timeline will be an interactive project for the entire congregation - young and old! Please reflect over the next few weeks on church events that were special to you and your family - perhaps a wedding or baptism, a service project or mission trip. Make a list of your events that you would like captured. If you have copies of pictures from these events, even better. As a congregation, we will be populating the timeline together at our celebration on Saturday, April 25. So bring your list of events (a phrase or sentence) and/or a picture and we would love to hear from our youth about their mission trips and special events. Let's fellowship and share memories on April 25th! *Bonnie McGrath*

Women's Retreat – Save the Date!

This year the Women's Retreat will be held at Grotonwood on September 25-27, 2026. Watch for details.

THIS WEEK AT CCC

Date	Event	Time	Location
Sun, Mar 29	Worship	10:00 AM	Sanctuary
	Children's Choir	11:15 AM	Sanctuary
	We are Beloved – A Lenten Journey	11:30 AM	Rm 202 & Zoom
	Easter Egg Hunt	11:30 AM	Carson Park
	Easter Concert	3:00 PM	Sanctuary
Mon, Mar 30	Feast of Love – Holy Week Dinner	12:00 PM	Val King's home
	St. Paul's Soup Kitchen	3:00 PM	Eliot Church
	Feast of Love - Holy Week Dinner	6:00 PM	Deb Lyons' home
Tues, Mar 31	Knitters & Crocheters	10:30 AM	Parlor
	Lunch Bunch	11:45 AM	Room 202
Wed, Apr 1	Pastoral Search	5:30 PM	Room 202
Thurs, Apr 2	Maundy Thursday Service	6:30 PM	Fellowship Hall
Fri, Apr 3	Good Friday Service	6:30 PM	Sanctuary
Sat, Apr 4	Easter Vigil Prayer by Pastor Lee	5:45 PM	Zoom
	Easter Vigil	6:00 PM – 6:00 AM	Sanctuary & at home
Sun, Apr 5	Easter Sunrise Service	6:15 AM	Carson Park
	Easter Service	10:00 AM	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.

HYMN LYRICS

Hymn

“We Are Walking”

We are walking in the light of God, we are walking in the light of God. We are walking in the light of God, we are walking in the light of God. We are walking, Oo We are walking in the light of God. We are walking, Oo We are walking in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching, Oo We are marching in the light of God. We are marching, Oo We are marching in the light of God.

We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God. We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God. We are singing, Oo We are singing in the light of God. We are singing, Oo We are singing in the light of God.

We are dancing in the light of God, we are dancing in the light of God. We are dancing in the light of God, we are dancing in the light of God. We are singing, Oo We are singing in the light of God.

We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of God. We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of God. We are singing, Oo We are singing in the light of God.

Hymn

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

All glory, laud, and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!
You are a child of Israel, Great David's greater son;
you ride in lowly triumph, Messiah, blessed one!

The company of angels are praising you on high,
and we with all creation in chorus make reply.

The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present.

To you before your passion they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.
As you received their praises, now hear us as we pray.
Since you delight in goodness, rule in our hearts today.

Closing Hymn

“O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

O, the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of thy love
leading onward, leading homeward, to that glorious rest above!

O, the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread his praise from shore to shore!
How he loves us, ever loves us, changes never, nevermore!
How he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own;
How for them he's interceding, watching o'er them from the throne!

O, the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best!
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest!
O, the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me;
and it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee!

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

1 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, vast, un - mea - sured,
 2 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, spread his praise from
 3 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, love of ev - ery

bound - less, free! Rol - ling as a migh - ty o - cean in its
 shore to shore! How he loves us, e - ver loves us, chan - ges
 love the best! 'Tis an o - cean vast of bles - sing, 'tis a

full - ness o - ver me! Un - der - neath me, all a - round me,
 ne - ver, ne - ver - more! How he watch - es o'er his loved ones,
 ha - ven sweet of rest! O the deep, deep love of Je - sus,

is the cur - rent of thy love lead - ing on - ward,
 died to call them all his own; how for them he's
 'tis a heaven of heavens to me; and it lifts me

lead - ing home - ward, to that glo - rious rest a - bove!
 in - ter - ce - ding, watch - ing o'er them from the throne!
 up to glo - ry, for it lifts me up to thee!

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