

# EDGEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Cranston, RI

10:00 AM

January 29, 2023

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Welcome! We invite you into a time of preparation for worship. We invite you to unplug, turn off your phones, unwind from the past week, and focus your hearts on God's presence within, around, and between us all.

### Words of Welcome & Announcements

L: God is present. L: Everywhere, all the time.

C: All the time, everywhere. C: God is present.

### Prelude

### Invocation

### Hymn

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

1. All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.

Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth, we will be fed.

You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.

Taste and see the grace eternal, taste and see that God is good.

2. All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.

Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy we keep the feast.

We that once were lost and scattered, in communion's love have stood.

Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

3. All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.

Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace, we have been led.

Blest are those who from this table live their lives in gratitude.

Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

### Scripture

Matthew 5:1-12, NRSV

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:1-12, *The Message Bible*

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down <sup>2</sup>and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

<sup>3</sup>"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and God's rule.

<sup>4</sup>"You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

<sup>5</sup>"You're blessed when you're content with just who you are – no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

<sup>6</sup>"You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. God is food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

<sup>7</sup>"You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for.

<sup>8</sup>"You're blessed when you get your inside world – your mind and heart – put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

<sup>9</sup>"You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

<sup>10</sup>"You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

<sup>11</sup>"Not only that – count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. <sup>12</sup>You can be glad when that happens – give a cheer, even! – for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

I Peter 3:8-9, *The Message Bible*

Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble. That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless — that's your job, to bless. You'll be a blessing and also get a blessing.

**Message**

“We Are Called to Bless”

**Musical Response**

**Joys and Concerns**

**Intercessory Prayer / The Lord’s Prayer (in unison)**

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Offering**

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, bless these gifts and the givers that all might carry forward the ministry you intend here in this church and community, and wherever there is a need on the face of the earth. Amen.

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Please keep **Cay Browne, Joe DiCiccio, Nancy Soukup, Ricky Brightman, Jeff Gilborn, and Roman Crispi** in your prayers.

Our January/February Mission support is for Crossroads Rhode Island, the only shelter in Rhode Island open 24/7.

**Be sure to visit us on the web: <http://edgewoodchurchri.org>**

**Or on Facebook:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/Edgewood-Congregational-Church-Renewed-871032246620940/>**

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Ministers ..... All Members  
Office Administrator..... Pat Kohler  
Music Coordinator ..... Brenda Farrell Muoio  
Sexton ..... Tom Ey  
Pastor ..... Rev. Bill Sterrett

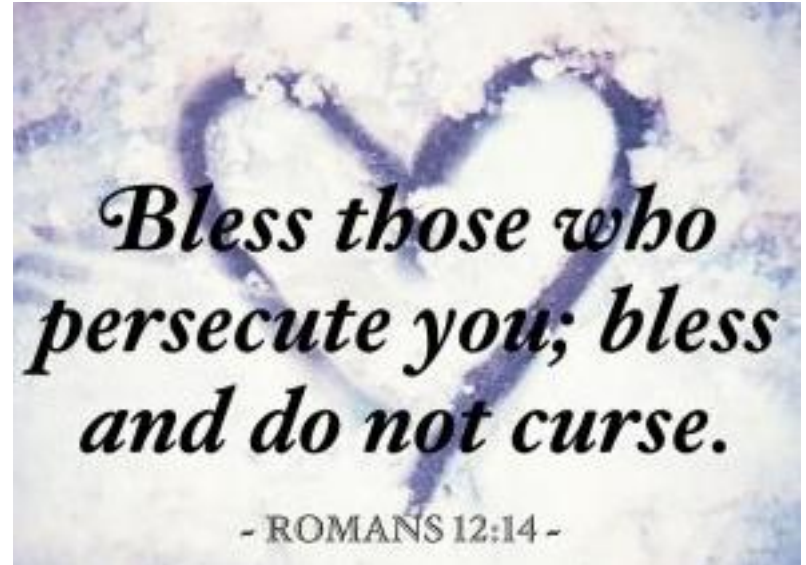
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**EDGEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1788 Broad Street, Cranston, Rhode Island 02905

**Manna Worship**



**No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you’re welcome here.**

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**Rev. Sterrett 401-787-8828 or [williamsterrett@cox.net](mailto:williamsterrett@cox.net)**