

EDGEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Cranston, RI

10:00 AM

May 21, 2023

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Call to Worship

Psalm 68, adapted

L: We shout for joy to God.

C: **We sing praises to our awe-inspiring God, whose abundant blessings, when shared, provide for all in need.**

L: God goes forth before the people, leading us through the wilderness of our lives, bringing forth healing and wholeness.

C: **We sing praises to God, who dwells within and among us.**

Invocation

***Hymn** #43, vs. 1,2,&4 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Question(s) for Reflection

"Heaven and hell is right now. ...You make it heaven or make it hell by your actions." - George Harrison

When have my words and/or actions allowed someone to be touched by heaven?

When have I thought so little of myself that my life felt like hell?

Silence

Assurance of Blessing

***Sharing of the Sign of Peace**

Let us celebrate God's great grace by offering to one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Scripture

James 2:14-18, *The Message Bible*

Matthew 4:15-17, *The Message Bible*

Luke 17:17-19, *The Message Bible*

Sermon

Heaven, Salvation, & Thoughts and Prayers

***Hymn** "If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers" Tune: O WALY WALY LM

1. If we just talk of thoughts and prayers
And don't live out a faith that dares,
And don't take on the ways of death,
Our thoughts and prayers are fleeting breath.
2. If we just dream of what could be
And do not build community,
And do not seek to change our ways,
Our dreams of change are false displays.
3. If we just sing of doing good
And don't walk through our neighborhood
To learn its hope, to ease its pain,
Our talk of good is simply vain.
4. God, may our prayers and dreams and songs
Lead to a faith that takes on wrongs —
That works for peace and justice, too.
Then will our prayers bring joy to you.

Joys and Concerns / Centering Prayer / Intercessory Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Our Creator, who is here 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

*Doxology

**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

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.

*Hymn #607 "We Would Be Building"

The Take Home

"What happens when people open their hearts? They get better."
- Haruki Murakami

Benediction / Sung Response "Go, My Children" (tune: #82)

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Postlude

We thank Carolyn Benjamin for serving as lay reader this morning. Please keep **Cay Browne, Joe DiCiccio, Ricky Brightman, Jeff & Susan Gilborn, and Lisa Röthlingshöfer** in your prayers.

Up-coming events:

Next **Saturday, May 27, from 9:00 – 2:00 pm**, Jess Watts is having a special "Gaspee Fringe" event on the west side of our church. For this event, **we are looking for extra volunteers to help set up part of the thrift store** outside on the north side of the church. If you can help, please let Rev. Sterrett know.

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

Or on Facebook:

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

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

EDGEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1788 Broad Street, Cranston, Rhode Island 02905

of Thoughts and Prayers ...



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

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