

EDGEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Cranston, RI

10:00 AM

July 9, 2023

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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 145:8-11, *The Message Bible*

L: God is good to one and all; everything God does is soaked through with grace.

C: **Creation and creatures applaud you, God; your holy people bless you.**

L: Your people talk about the glories of your rule, we exclaim over your splendor.

C: **We will let the world know of your power for good, the lavish splendor of your kin-dom.**

Invocation

***Hymn** #579 "Great God of Earth and Heaven"

Question(s) for Reflection

"I can will what is right, but I cannot do it." - *Romans 7:18b*

When did I not speak up, because it all seemed so impossible?

What motivates me to keep going, when it feels so futile to do so?

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

Romans 7:15-25

Sermon

"I do the very thing I hate"

***Hymn**

#459 "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

Joys and Concerns / Centering Prayer / Intercessory Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

Our Creator, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, 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**

#100 "All Praise Be Yours, My God, This Night"

The Take Home

"The curious paradox is that when I accept myself just as I am, then I can change." - *Carl Rogers*

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 Pat Kohler for serving as lay reader this morning.

Please keep **Cay Browne, Joe DiCiccio, Ricky Brightman, Jeff & Susan Gilborn, and Lisa Röthlingshöfer** in your prayers.

THE PARADOX OF OUR TIMES

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers

Wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints

We spend more, but we have less

We have bigger houses, but smaller families

More conveniences, but less time

We have more degrees, but less sense

More knowledge, but less judgment

More experts, but more problems

More medicines, but less wellness

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values

We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often

We have learnt how to make a living, but not a life

We have added years to life, but not life to years

We've been all the way to the moon and back

But have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbour

We have conquered outer space, but not inner space

We've cleaned up the air, but polluted our soul

We've split the atom, but not our prejudice

We've higher incomes, but lower morals

We've become long on quantity, but short on quality

These are the times of tall men, and short character

Steep profits, and shallow relationships

These are the times of world peace, but domestic warfare

More leisure, but less fun; more kinds of food, but less nutrition

These are the days of two incomes, but more divorces

Of fancier houses, but broken homes

It is a time when there is much in the show window

And nothing in the stockroom

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

Paradox



**I have found the paradox,
that if you love until it hurts,
there can be no more hurt, only more love.**

- Mother Teresa

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

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Email: office@edgewoodchurchri.org **Phone:** 401-461-1344
Rev. Sterrett 401-787-8828 or williamsterrett@cox.net