

Welcome to Worship

We believe that all people are blessed and loved equally by God. Following the teachings of Jesus we heartily welcome everyone into God's covenantal community. Whatever your race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic or marital status, variety of thoughts and beliefs, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression - whoever you are and wherever you come from you are welcome into the full life and ministry of our church.



Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Order of Morning Worship

1st Sunday after Pentecost

June 15th, 2025

We gather in worship this morning with joy and reverence in our hearts and a sincere welcome to all. Please remember that some will greet neighbors while others come quietly to prayerfully seek God.



The service is also being livestreamed to be watched online
by those unable to join us in person.

WE PREPARE FOR GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

Matthew Marion

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

EXTENDING THE HAND OF PEACE

The Peace of Christ be always with you...

Response: And also with you...

Let us greet one another extending the hand of Christian Peace

(All are invited to greet one another by shaking hands or waving, offering the peace of Christ.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP[#]

Rebecca (Alex) Ray

Racquel: Still as sleeping water, quiet as snow on snow,

All: within each of us is a sacred center.

Rebecca: It exists at the very core of our consciousness.

All: It is what gives us self-awareness.

Racquel: No matter how intense the struggles around us may be,

All: there is always a steady and serene center within us.

Rebecca: It is the place of our connection to the infinite.

All: Rest and renew in this holy space whenever you can. It will always be there, waiting for you.

*HYMN NCH # 475

God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION[#]

Violet Milliken

Let your love be your strength. You do not need anger or judgement, for they are mirrors of the soul that say more about you than others. You do not need righteousness or correctness, for these pretenses are always transparent. You do not need superiority or power, for they will always betray you to false pride. When you feel called to stand for what you believe, take up love as your witness. Love will shine through with the clear message you wish to convey. It will withstand any pressure to compromise your truth or bend to deny that truth. Love will unite your friends in struggle and speak to the hardest heart with whom you contend. Let love be your strength and you can stand before lions and never fear.

*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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*GLORIA

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, God of life.

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES

<i>Violet Milliken</i>	<i>Tessa Lapinski</i>	<i>Sophie Milisauskas</i>
<i>Ellyson Capizzo</i>	<i>Ainsley Drury</i>	<i>Rebecca Ray</i>

PRAYERS OF THE CANDIDATES

(Candidates & Pastors kneel on the chancel steps & say together)

O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ.
I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully,
all the days of my life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION *(Candidates and Pastors remain kneeling)*

Racquel: Let us pray in silence.
(A period of silent prayer follows)

Racquel: Let us pray together.

Congregation:

Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

(Candidates and Pastors stand and move to the chancel)

IN CELEBRATION OF THE JOURNEY *(Congregation)*

**The journey of faith is a journey through life.
We are pilgrims, travelers, making our way.
We sojourn on the pathway of the saints.
We walk the same highways and follow the same landmarks which led them.
But for each generation, in each place and time, and for each seeker who travels this way the road seems different.
We hold out our hands to them and beckon them to join us on the journey.
As they walk beside us, we may tell our stories, but we may not tell them the way.
It is a quest they must follow by themselves.
We can tell them our questions, but the answers must come from within their own hearts.
We celebrate a new generation of faith, a new branch, with its leaves that blossom.
Let us all make a place for them, and let them know that the community of Christ is their community too, as we all worship God together.**

PROMISE OF THE CANDIDATES *(Candidates)*

We promise with God's help to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of Jesus, to resist oppression and evil, to show understanding and compassion, and to bring the love and justice of Jesus to the world. We promise to grow in faith, be a faithful member of the church, and further its mission of serving God's world and welcoming the realm of God on Earth.

PROMISE OF THE CONGREGATION *(Congregation)*

We value your decision today to join with us and look forward to sharing in ministry with you. We pledge our sincere efforts to get to know you better, to listen faithfully to

your concerns and ideas, respect your opinions, and to keep you in our prayers at all times.

ACT OF CONFIRMATION AND THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

(Candidates may stand on the steps. Deacons please come forward and stand in the chancel. Pastor will pray for each candidate with the laying on of hands and anointing with holy oil. Families and loved ones may stand as their Candidate is Confirmed.)

O God, in the grace of Jesus Christ you have accepted this your servant _____ through the water of baptism. Equip them with the power of your Holy Spirit in Confirmation that they may serve you in the world. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

Racquel: We rejoice, O merciful God, with these young people in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into fullness of life. We give thanks that they have been moved to confirm the promises of their baptism. Help them to live not for themselves, but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep them steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ.

Congregation: Amen.

(The newly confirmed return to the chancel)

BCCUCC COVENANT *(unison)*

Before God and these witnesses present, we covenant with God and each other. We dedicate our faith, thought, and actions to love God with all that we are and our neighbors as ourselves. Relying on the help of God, the unfolding and reconciling Word, and the Holy Spirit, we join ourselves to this church to take part in its worship and activities, and to strive earnestly for its peace and enlightenment. We covenant and agree to devote ourselves to this faith community that worships God, embraces all people, ministers to one another, works for justice and peace, and renders loving service to God's world.

WELCOME

Racquel: Let us, the members of Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

*HYMN NCH # 471

PRAYERS

Rev. Racquel Ray & Ainsley Drury

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

(Old Testament p. 683)

REFLECTION

The Future of the Church

Rev. Racquel Ray

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERTORY

CHOIR RECOGNITION

INVITATION

Tessa Lapinski
& Ellyson Capizzo

CHORAL ANTHEM

I'm Gonna Keep on Singin'

arr. Hart

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.**

*PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION

OUR COMMUNITY GOES OUT TO SERVE GOD

*HYMN NCH # 295

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

*BENEDICTION

Sophie (Mac) Milisauskas

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold onto what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the suffering. Honor all people. Honor all creation. Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the love of God, the Light of Christ, and the power and communion of that Spirit be with us all. Go in peace. Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Go In Love

**Go in love, have no fear.
God will guide you, God is always near.
Go in love, take God's hand, God will hear you and will understand.
May God's light forever shine upon you, may full peace be always in your heart.
Go in love, face each day, God will lead you and will show the way.
Go in love and live in faith.**

POSTLUDE

** Those who are able, please stand.*



At the end of the service, please allow the confirmands and their families to exit first.
All are welcome to follow them out and observe the traditional dove release
that will take place outside.



The Call to Worship and the Prayer of Invocation are both written by Steven Charleston.

*Please freely change the wording of any part of this service to more inclusive language.
Our purpose is to worship God in wholeness.*

About our hymns: Those designated “PH” are from the *Pilgrim Hymnal* (blue);
those designated “NCH” are from *The New Century Hymnal* (black).

Large Print Bulletins and Hearing Devices are available from the Ushers.



TODAY’S ALTAR FLOWERS:

Both arrangements have been given by Barbara and Dick McWhirter and family
in loving memory of their son, Mark, who died five years ago.



Greeter: Beth Buckley

Ushers: Liz Wiedenhofer & Jay Buckley

Worship Tech Support: Seth Forman

TO OUR VISITORS: We especially welcome those who are visiting with us today. We are pleased to have you among us and invite you to fill out a Visitor Response Card found in the pew rack. Welcome Folders are available for pick up from the racks in the stairwells. We hope that you will come back and worship with us again.

Ministers to the World: All the Congregation

Associate Minister: Rev. Racquel Ray

Dir. Faith Formation: Andrea Terni

Music Director: Matthew Marion

Office Administrator: Sara Bagwell

Financial Secretary: Patricia Stoddard

Custodians: Frank & Barbara Lee

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TO MAKE A DONATION: Offering envelopes are available for your use in the pew racks. To donate online, use this QR code to access the donation page of our church's website, then click on the Tithe.ly link and use the drop-down box to designate where you would like your donation to go. We thank you for your financial support.



Confirmation Class of 2024-2025

Violet Eden Milliken

Violet is a 9th grade student at BHS. She enjoys using her voice as a singer, actress, debater, coxswain, and class officer. In fall of 2019, prior to the start of the pandemic, Violet and her family began attending church. In her years at BCCUCC, Violet participated in the Sing and Celebrate choir (including online worship), Church School, Youth Group, and Confirmation classes. Key things she will take away from Confirmation is the inclusivity of the church and the emphasis on your own personal relationship with God. She would like to thank Pastor Racquel, the Deacons, her family, and the other confirmands for their support throughout the Confirmation process.

Tessa Lapinski

Tessa Lapinski grew up in a church community at the All Saints Episcopal Church in South Hadley, MA. She started attending Barrington Congregational Church with her family when she moved to town in 2018. She is currently finishing freshman year at Barrington High School. Tessa is on the varsity lacrosse team and plays volleyball as well. Her favorite part of Confirmation was learning about

how churches need to be thoughtful and inclusive towards people with disabilities and how to make the church-going experience equally enjoyable for everyone.

Sophie (Mac) Milisauskas

Mac has been going to the church since she was 6 years old. She is 14 and going into 9th grade and into her 3rd year of wrestling. Mac has extremely enjoyed the church's welcoming presence. Church also helped Mac with her social fears and it taught her that her voice matters to people, and that they want to listen to her. It helped her get over her fears about public speaking and judgment. What Mac loves most about the church groups is that they made her feel supported, heard and not judged and she felt like people genuinely wanted to hear what she had to say. She always has a trusted community to go to when she needs support. Mac feels that by being a part of this church brought her closer to God and her family.

Ellyson Capizzo

Ellyson has been coming with her family to BCCUCC for two years - Elly and her brother Beckett initially started with attending Youth Group and have expanded their involvement. Elly loves horseback riding, traveling, creative writing, music, acting and all things 1980s pop culture! She is passionate about animal welfare rights and supporting the needs of those struggling with homelessness. She will be going into her sophomore year at Barrington High School. She enjoys learning more about the history of the church and its structure during her Confirmation lessons.

Ainsley Drury

Ainsley is in 8th grade at Barrington Middle School. She plays softball and volleyball along with participating in multiple theater groups. Some of Ainsley's hobbies are reading, hanging out with friends, etc. Ainsley loves participating in church services! She has been in the Christmas play many years in a row and on occasion she reads during the service and welcomes people into the church. Confirmation is a big deal for her and she is very excited for it!

Rebecca (Alex) Helen Ray

Is a 9th grader at Barrington High School. They have been attending with their family since 2022 when their mom became the settled Associate Minister of Congregational Life. Alex is a regular participant in Youth Group and has completed O.W.L. They enjoy following Formula 1 Racing. Alex is a talented artist and enjoys fashion design, costuming, and creating. Alex appreciated learning

*about the UCC history of advocacy for inclusion of all people and the church's
Open and Affirming and Accessible welcome.*