

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MONTAGUE,  
TRINITARIAN, MONTAGUE, MA

May 21, 2023 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter

*Bold italics indicate the work of the people.*

*\*Indicates places to stand if able to.*

The hymnal for today is the Black Hymnal

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

*Sing praises to God's name. Lift up a song to the one  
who rides upon the clouds.*

*The Father of orphans and protector of widows is God  
in his holy habitation.*

*You give the desolate a home to live in.*

*The earth quakes and pours down rain in your presence.*

*O Rider of the ancient heavens,  
send forth your mighty voice.* (adapted from Psalm 68)

**UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*God of heaven and earth, you are the lover who never forsakes us;  
you are the mother who cradles her children; you are the teacher  
patiently repeating your words for us. Be with us now and make us  
more wholly yours, so that we may dwell in life everlasting, with  
Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

**\*HYMN #257** "Alleluia Gracious Jesus!" (verses 1&2 only)

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*God most gracious, we confess to you that we are disheartened by  
the losses we sustain in this life. There are times when the world  
seems empty and loveless and having loved once, we are afraid to*

*love again. Forgive us when we feel incapable of responding to the  
love you offer us with the enthusiasm it deserves and save us from  
all despair. Restore in us a full appreciation of the life you have  
given us. And grant us the certainty of faith that not even death can  
separate those who dwell in your love.*

**\*ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

*In Christ we are forgiven.*

*Thanks be to God!*

**\*A Gloria**

*From all that dwells below the skies, Let the Creator's praise arise!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Let the Redeemer's name be sung,*

*Let God the Spirit loose each tongue!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

New Testament

Acts 1:6-14

NT Epistle

1 Peter 4:12-14;5: 6-11

Gospel

John 17:1-11

**SERMON**

"A Love Story"

**HYMN # 223**

"What Wondrous Love is This"

**PRAYERS**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Intercessory Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

*Prayer Response*

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.* (sung to the tune of Old 100<sup>th</sup>)

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*With gratitude for all that you provide, dear God, and to the service of the world you love so much, we dedicate these gifts and our lives to you, in Jesus name. Amen*

**\*HYMN #63** “Ride On! Ride On in Majesty”

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Response** (To the tune of Edelweiss)

*May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever, grant you peace, perfect peace, strength in every endeavor; lift up your eyes and then see his face, and his grace forever; May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever.*

**POSTLUDE**

(Please remain seated for the Postlude)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The Deacon for May is Lorraine York-Edberg
- Join us downstairs for fellowship hour following worship today.
- Council Meeting today.
- Rev. Koyama’s office hours are Tuesday am. Call ahead 808-282-6711.
- Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday! Come dressed in your finest red!

**PRAYER GARDEN**