

“Inspired by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ, the Barre Congregational Church seeks to be a welcoming and caring congregation that supports each other and serves the wider world.”

The Barre Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



Gabal Al Tayr (Mountain of the Birds), Egypt

Sunday, August 23rd, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Rev. James Semmelroth Darnell
Pastor

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Pastor: God was with the people of Israel when they left Egypt.

People: God is with us now.

Pastor: God gave the people hope as they traveled through the desert.

People: God gives us the courage to step out in faith.

Pastor: God is with us wherever we go.

People: Come, let us worship the Lord.

* Opening Hymn

“Go Down, Moses”

#663

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Most Holy Friend, God and Saviour, our lives are so crowded and rushed, that even our holy days and vacations can leave little room for searching thought and prayer. Have mercy on our pretentious, scurrying, little lives. If in our busy flurrying we left scant room for the whole needs of our family, and friends, and fellow church members; Lord have mercy.

If in our short-sighted worrying about hospitality and gifts, we became insensitive to wonder and awe in the presence of your Holy Incarnation; Christ have mercy.

If in our frenetic scurrying between self-indulgent feasts, we insulated ourselves against the cries of the hungry and oppressed, the poor and the dispossessed; Lord have mercy.

Holy Friend, save us not only from our obvious sins but also from our misplaced energies. Save us from wasting the precious moments of life on that which is second-best, and from gaining a world of things but losing our own souls. Assist us to tap into that eternal Source of “light and life and holy joy” which nothing can ever take from us, yet from which we ourselves can slip down among that trivia which leads to darkness. Please put your arms around us, lift us up and bear us on your shoulders. Grant this we pray. Through Christ Jesus our Brother and Saviour. Amen!

Assurance of Grace

Reading from the Old Testament

Exodus 14: 21 - 31

Hosea 11: 1 - 4

Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 2: 13 - 18

Responding to the Word (*Responsive*)

One: The word of God, for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Jesus In Egypt

Expressions of Gratitude, Joys, and Concerns

After each prayer shared, we respond, “O Lord, hear our prayer.”

Pastoral Prayer (*Prayer Response*)

Pastor: ...Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

People: God’s mercy endures forever

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 for our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Hymn

“When Jesus Was In Egypt”

Insert

Call to the Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures high and low.
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

A Prayer for Bethlehem

*Closing Hymn

“Blest Be the Ties That Bind”

#433

Benediction

**Postlude

*Please stand if you are able.

**Please sit quietly for the postlude.



If you'd like to donate to the work of the BCC, please scan the QR Code with the camera application on your cell phone. A link will pop up. Please click it and fill out the donation form.

Announcement:

The Barre Congregational Church member per capita dues are now due for the 2026/27 year. It amounts to 16.72\$ per member.

Volunteers Needed on Sunday Mornings!

We need your help to make Sunday morning worship an inspiring and welcoming experience for members and friends alike. Please consider signing up as a lector (reading Scripture during the service), usher, or greeter. The blue sign up book is available at the table in the back of the sanctuary. You can also sign up by reaching out to deacons Cathy James (lectors), Bev Thomas (greeters), or Rev. James at revjames.bccucc@gmail.com.

Welcome Guests!

We are so glad that you are worshiping with us today! The Barre Congregational Church, United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation where no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here! We are blessed by your presence with us. Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right of the sanctuary and downstairs. We heartily invite you to join us for conversation and refreshments in our Fellowship Hall following the service.

We welcome the seekers.

We welcome those who question.

We welcome those who believe without question.

It is not for us to turn anyone away.

Arms wide open.

Welcome home.

Upcoming events and meetings:

Sunday, August 23rd: Worship Service with Rev. James, 9:30 am

Tuesday, August 25th: Deacons Meeting

Saturday, August 29th: Saturday Morning Breakfast, 8:00 - 9:30 am

Sunday, August 30th: Worship Service with Rev. James, 9:30 am

Please inform the church office of all upcoming events

Serving this Sunday

Jackie Johnson, Lector

Marjorie Lowery, Greeter

, Flowers

Deacons, Coffee Hour

Cary Friberg, Welcome

, Usher

Thank you to our volunteers for their service to the Church.

When Jesus Went to Egypt

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2018

Hans Leo Hassler, 1601

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the staff, with three verses provided. The music is a simple, hymn-like setting with a steady rhythm.

1. When Je - sus went to E - gypt, Safe on his mo - ther's arm,
2. O God, we pray for chil - dren And fam - ilies com - ing here
3. O God, you're like a mo - ther Who won't for - sake her own.

His pa - rents stayed be - side him To keep him safe from harm.
Now fac - ing se - pa - ra - tion, And filled with grief and fear.
You're like a lov - ing fa - ther Who wel - comes his_ son home.

And when they crossed the bor - der, They were al - lowed to be
For chil - dren, loved and trea - sured, Are ripped from lov - ing kin.
Now give_ us, by your Spi - rit, The strength to chal - lenge wrong,

To - ge - ther—seek - ing ref - uge—A Ho - ly Fa - mi - ly.
This deed, by a - ny mea - sure, Is tor - ture. It's a sin!
To seek the best for chil - dren, And keep all fam - ilies strong.

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Permission is given for free use of this hymn to churches seeking to support immigrant families.