



*The First Congregational Church
of the United Church of Christ
Stockbridge, Massachusetts
September 13, 2020
10:00 a.m.*

*You are invited to text the names of those attending to
617-513-0185 that we might welcome you. You may also include
prayers of joys and concerns that will be lifted later in worship.*

GATHERING MUSIC

Three Preludes Founded on Welsh Hymn Tunes

Bryn Calfaria

R. Vaughan Williams

Rhosemedre

Sándor Szabó, *organ*

Hyfrydol

FRAMING WORDS

Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT

Psalm 103

Anson Olds
Jack Brown, *baritone*

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, Bless the Lord, bless his holy name. Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies.

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, Bless the Lord, bless his holy name. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them.

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, Bless the Lord, bless his holy name.

One: Bless the Lord, my soul.

All: With all my being I bless God's holy name.

One: Bless the Lord, my soul, may God's blessings linger in my memory.

All: God pardons and forgives; God heals and restores.

One: Even death's pit cannot thwart God's rescue;

All: We are continually crowned with steadfast love and mercy.

One: Throughout life's span, satisfaction and goodness flow forth,

All: Our youth is renewed like an eagle's.

One: Bless the Lord, my soul.

All: With all my being I bless his holy name.

HYMN

Bless the Lord

2013

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name.

The first line of musical notation is in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass clef. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Bless the Lord my soul who leads me in - to life.

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and bass line from the first line. It concludes with a double bar line.

WORDS: Jacques Berthier (Ps. 103:1)
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier and the Taizé Community

BLESS THE LORD (TAIZÉ)
Irregular

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THE GIFT OF THE WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN (Based on Psalm 103:1-5)

Talking Together

Lord's Prayer

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

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 103:6-14

Ted Randolph

The Lord works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.
For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.

SERMON

An Angry God in Love

Rev. Damrow

2

Glory, Glory Hallelujah

Exod. 15:20; Gen. 28:12; Ps. 81:6

African-American spiritual

1 Glo - ry, glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah, since I
 2 I feel bet - ter, so much bet - ter, since I
 3 Feel like shout - ing "Hal - le - lu - jah!" since I
 4 I am danc - ing Mir - iam's dance now, since I
 5 I am climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der, since I
 6 Ev - ery round goes higher and high - er, since I

laid my bur - dens down. Glo - ry, glo - ry hal - le -
 laid my bur - dens down. I feel bet - ter, so much
 laid my bur - dens down. Feel like shout - ing "Hal - le -
 laid my bur - dens down. I am danc - ing Mir - iam's
 laid my bur - dens down. I am climb - ing Ja - cob's
 laid my bur - dens down. Ev - ery round goes higher and

lu - jah, since I laid my bur - dens down.
 bet - ter, since I laid my bur - dens down.
 lu - jah!" since I laid my bur - dens down.
 dance now, since I laid my bur - dens down.
 lad - der, since I laid my bur - dens down.
 high - er, since I laid my bur - dens down.

Despite their physical captivity, the enslaved of antebellum America often found an inward freedom through their faith in Jesus the liberator. This liberation, which permitted them to sing rejoicingly, anticipated their eventual physical emancipation.

Tune: GLORY, GLORY 8.7.8.7.
African-American spiritual
 Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION Adapted from Alex Leung Ted Randolph

Almighty and most merciful God,

**We are thankful that your mercy is
higher than the heavens,
wider than our wanderings,
deeper than all our sin.**

**Forgive our frivolous attitude toward life,
our callousness toward suffering,
our envy of those who have more than we have,
our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure,
our indifference to the treasures of heaven,
our neglect of your wise and gracious law.**

**Help us to change our way of life
so that we may desire what is good, love what you love,
and do what you command. (Time for silent confession.)**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

CONGREGATIONAL SUNG RESPONSE *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah* verses 2, 6
see page 4

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS Rev. Damrow

If you have not yet done so, please text any joys or concerns to 617-513-0185.

PRAYER RESPONSE *Amen* Jack Brown, *baritone*

CALL TO THE OFFERING Rev. Damrow

OFFERTORY *Gratias*, from Mass No. 3 BWV 235 J.S. Bach
Jack Brown, *baritone*

*Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.*

*We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.*

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

Rev. Damrow

HYMN

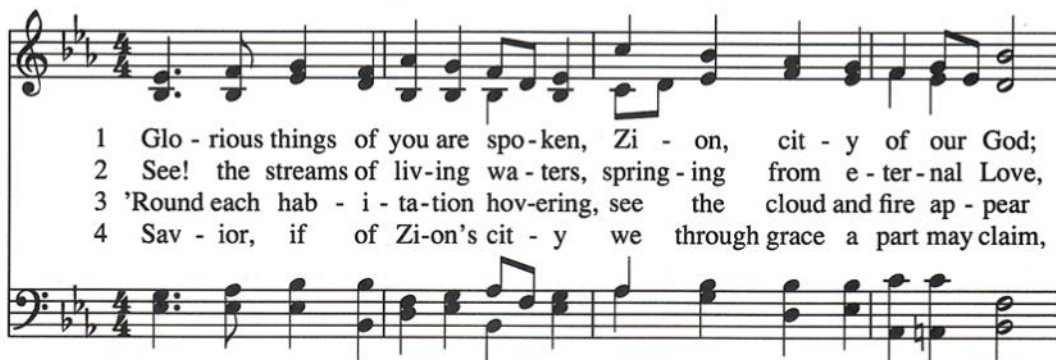
307

Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

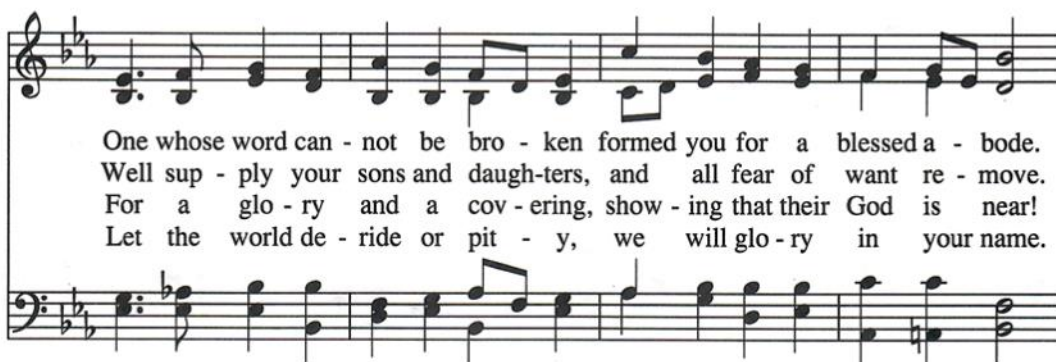
Ps. 87:3; Isa. 33:20-21; 60:18; 26:4; Exod. 13:22

John Newton, 1779; alt.

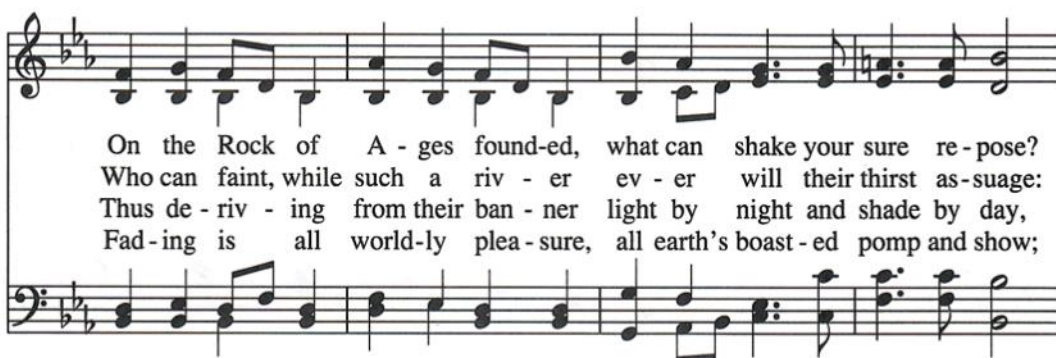
Verses 1 - 3



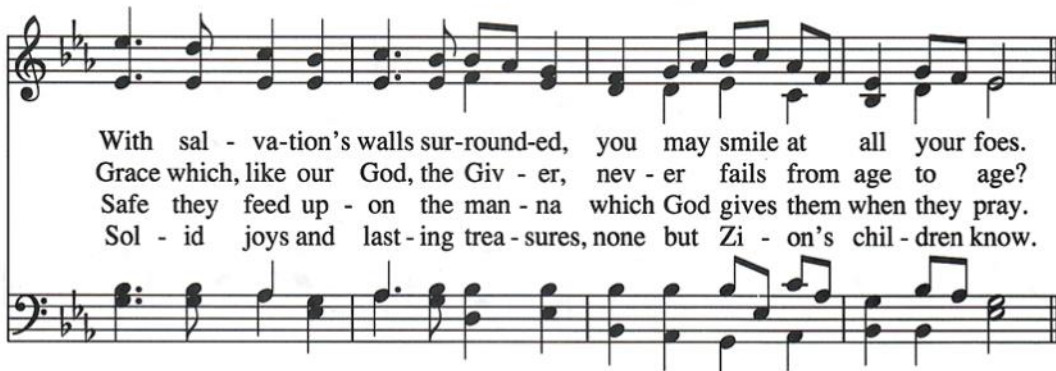
1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God;
2 See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal Love,
3 'Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear
4 Sav - ior, if of Zi - on's cit - y we through grace a part may claim,



One whose word can - not be bro - ken formed you for a blessed a - bode.
Well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move.
For a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that their God is near!
Let the world de - ride or pit - y, we will glo - ry in your name.



On the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake your sure re - pose?
Who can faint, while such a riv - er ev - er will their thirst as - suage:
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
Fad - ing is all world - ly plea - sure, all earth's boast - ed pomp and show;



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, you may smile at all your foes.
Grace which, like our God, the Giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age?
Safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them when they pray.
Sol - id joys and last - ing trea - sures, none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

Filled with Old Testament scriptural allusions, this was one of few hymns of praise included among the many subjective, sometimes brooding, hymns in Newton and Cowper's Olney Hymns. It has enjoyed great popularity in many English-speaking countries.

Tune: AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7.D.
Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797
Alternate tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH



POSTLUDE

Sinfonia from Cantata No. 29Bach/Dupré
Sándor Szabó, *organ*

Music Notes

When the Lutheran church emerged in the 15th century, one of its main tenets was that church services – and all associated music – must be in the language of the people: German. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) spent his life in service to the Lutheran church, and he set hundreds of German cantata texts to music for use in Sunday morning services. By the 18th century, however, it was no longer necessary for the Lutheran church to differentiate itself so fiercely from its Catholic ancestor, and Catholic texts – specifically the Kyrie and Gloria of the Mass – sometimes found their way back into the liturgy. Leipzig, where Bach worked as Kantor of the Thomaskirche from 1723 to the end of his life, was one of the towns that used the so-called *Missa brevis* (Kyrie and Gloria only), and, in the late 1730s, Bach composed four Mass settings for liturgical use.

For his Mass in G minor, BWV 235, Bach only used material from his cantatas known as a *Parody Mass*, a custom very often used at that time. In fact, four of the movements – all in the Gloria – reinvent choruses and arias from the same cantata: BWV 187, which bears the title *Es wartet alles auf dich* (Everything waits for you). This cantata, which reflects upon the feeding of the four thousand as described in the Gospel of Mark, shares not only a key signature with the Mass but instrumentation also.



Bible Studies

We are pleased to offer two different studies that focus on not just learning the Bible but engaging in dialogue about how it matters for our lives today: the Disciple program and Covenant. Pastor Brent will organize and lead the teaching sessions and join the small groups regularly to help where needed. To learn more, see the September newsletter or visit the church website. The deadline for signing up is September 21.

The First Congregational Church, UCC, Stockbridge is an Open and Affirming Church, inviting persons of every sexual orientation, gender identification and expression, racial and cultural identity, age, physical ability, economic circumstance, faith background and family structure to share fully in the ministry, leadership and fellowship of this congregation's life in Christ.

For information about us, please visit our website: **stockbridgeucc.org**

Join us for these opportunities this week:

- Evening Worship – Sunday 5:00 p.m. *In-person gathering.*
 - Morning Prayer – Wednesday 8:00 a.m. *Via Zoom.*
 - Bible Study – Wednesday 1:00 p.m. *Via Zoom.*
- Morning Prayer – Thursday 8:00 a.m. *In-person gathering, under the tent.*

**To receive weekly emails or to be placed on our mailing list, please contact Will
office@stockbridgeucc.org | (413) 298-3137**

**Online giving is available through our website or you may mail a check to
PO Box 825, Stockbridge, MA 01262**

The Rev. Brent Damrow, Pastor

Dr. Sándor Szabó, Minister of Music

Will Garrison, Administrator | Ron Hanft, Financial Secretary

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Thank you to all who made this online service possible.