



*The First Congregational Church
of the United Church of Christ
Stockbridge, Massachusetts
September 27, 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

*Prelude in C Sharp Minor Op. 45 Frederic Chopin
Prelude in A Flat Major, Op. 28, No. 17
Fantasie Impromptu Op. 66 Sándor Szabó, piano*

FRAMING WORDS

Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT

He Leadeth Me

William Bradbury
John Demler, *bass*

He leadeth me, O blessed thought! O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
What e'er I do, where'er I be Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me, By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be, For by His hand He leadeth me.

CALL TO WORSHIP by Joan Stott from "The Timeless Psalms" Elizabeth Young

One: We come to worship and praise our God,
and to learn more about the wonders of our God.

All: How great and wonderful is our Compassionate God.

One: We come, with ears and hearts open to God,
ready to discover more of God's mysteries and miracles.

All: How generous and caring is our Unchanging God.

One: We gather to share together in our common history,
and to experience the enrichment which that brings us.

**All: All praise and honour to God for past and present
blessings, and for God's merciful love and grace. Amen.**


HYMN

Verses

1, 4, & 5

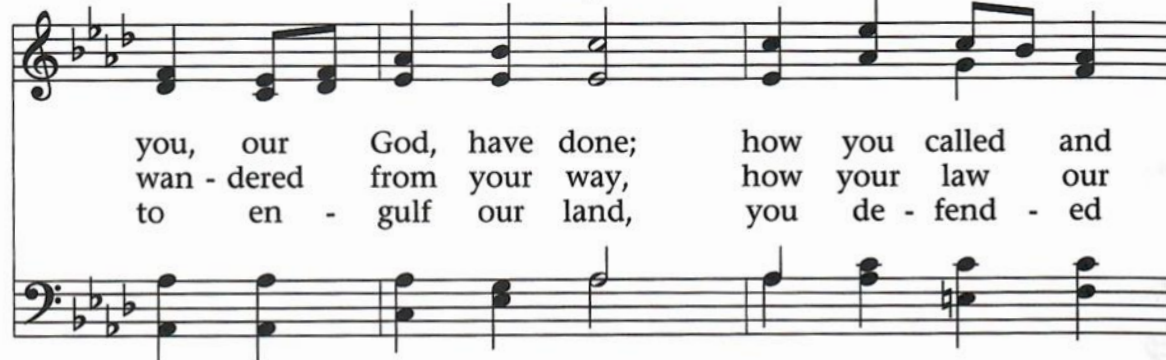
78E We Will Tell Each Generation

Fm **A^b**



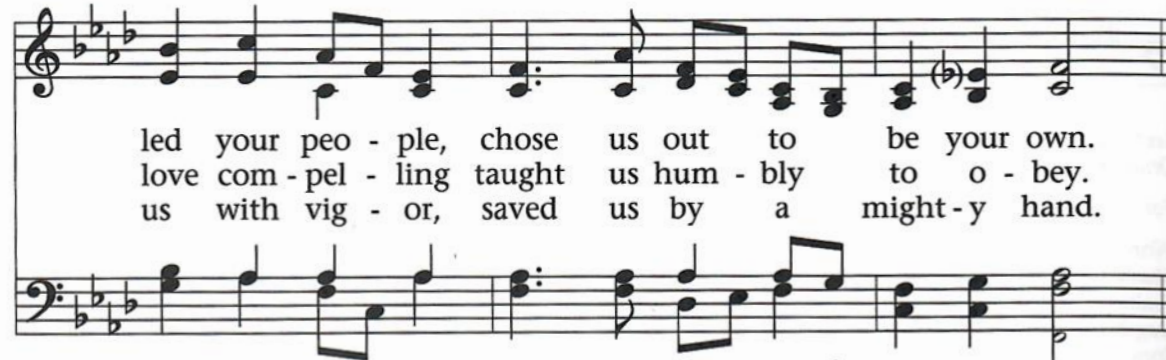
1 We will tell each gen - er - a - tion all that
 2 Tell the time of our re - bel - ling— how we
 3 Tell how once, when spite and ter - ror threat - ned

D^b **A^b**



you, our God, have done; how you called and
 wan - dered from your way, how your law our
 to en - gulf our land, you de - fend - ed

E^b **Fm** **Cm7** **Fm**



led your peo - ple, chose us out to be your own.
 love com - pel - ling taught us hum - bly to o - bey.
 us with vig - or, saved us by a might - y hand.

4 Tell the grace that falls from heaven,
 angels' food as faith's reward;
 tell how sins may be forgiven
 through the mercy of the Lord.

5 We will tell each generation
 all that you, our God, have done.
 As a shepherd you have led us;
 by your hand still lead your own.

Words: sts. 1-4 Michael Perry; st. 5 Michael Perry, alt. Martin Tel © 1989 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Company
 Music (ARISE/RESTORATION 8.7.8.7): W. Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. Charles H. Webb (b. 1933), P.D.

WELCOME/PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Damrow

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN Exodus 15:22-25, Exodus 17:1-6

Talking Together *Water*

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 Matthew 20:1-16

Elizabeth Young

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard."

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

ANTHEM *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* (verse 1) John Demler, *bass*
God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and
Endless store, Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
Costly cross, grave's shattered door: Gifted by You, we turn
To You, offering up ourselves in praise; Thankful
Song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

SERMON *Totally and Amazingly Fair* Rev. Damrow

SUNG RESPONSE *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* (verses 2 & 3)

**Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of
Christ, Your Son: All at peace in health and freedom,
Races joined, the church made one. Now direct our daily
Labor, lest we strive for self alone; born with
Talents, make us servants fit to answer at Your throne.**

**Treasure too You have entrusted, gain through powers Your
Grace conferred; Ours to use for home and kindred,
And to spread the gospel Word. Open wide our hands, in
Sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call, healing,
Teaching, and reclaiming, serving You by loving all.**

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 John Demler, *bass*

CALL TO THE OFFERING Rev. Damrow

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *God is My Shepherd* from *Biblical Songs* Anton Dvorak

God is my shepherd. I want for nothing. My rest is in the pleasant
meadows, He leadeth me where quiet waters flow.
My fainting soul doth He restore and guideth me in the ways of peace,
to glorify His name. And though in death's dark valley my steps may
wander, my spirit shall not fear, for Thou art by me still.
Thy rod and staff are with me, and they shall comfort me. (Psalm 23)

DOXOLOGY

Lasst uns Erfreuen

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low; Alleluia, Alleluia
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

Rev. Damrow

HYMN

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

See page 6

BENEDICTION

Rev. Damrow



POSTLUDE

Litanies

Jehan Alain
Sándor Szabó, *organ*

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**

HYMN

Verses

1, 3, & 5

423 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

DUKE STREET LM

John Hatton (d. 1793)

Desc. David McKinley Williams, 1959

Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

Descant

5. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -

1. Je - sus shall reign where - e'er the sun Does its suc -
 2. To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And prais - es
 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue Dwell on His
 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns; The pris - oners

cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with

ces - sive jour - neys run, His king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown His head; His name, like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song, And in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, The wea - ry find e -

songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud A - men!

shore to shore, Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume, shall rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
 ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.

5. Let every creature rise and bring
 Honors peculiar to our King;

Angels descend with songs again,
 And earth repeat the loud Amen!

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Music Notes

The cycle of 10 Biblical Songs was composed in 1894 as Dvorak's Op. 99. The first happy years of his visit to America were followed by a personal crisis, with the death of two dear friends (Tchaikovsky and von Bullow), and with the news of the terminal illness of Dvorak's own father back in the old country. The deeply religious composer sought refuge and comfort in his faith. He selected, with minor but ingenious adaptations, verses from the book of Psalms, and produced some of his most spiritual and most beautiful music. The burst of creative energy is quite remarkable: the whole cycle was composed in just 21 days!

The text which Dvorak used was the old Czech Bible Kralicka dating back to 1579. The beauty of its poetry made it one of the most important and influential early works in the Czech language. Unfortunately, the standard English translation printed in the sheet music had to be heavily modified to be "singable", and therefore does not really reflect the words which inspired Dvorak. For the text in these Notes, I started from the King James Bible, which - although more recent than Bible Kralicka - provides a flavor of the archaic Czech original. Modifications were then made, minor in some Psalms, quite substantial in others, to best approximate the poetic nature of the words being sung in Czech. [Only a few are recognizable as psalms -Editor]

A noteworthy feature of these songs is the apparent simplicity and economy of the musical language, both in the vocal score as well as in the piano accompaniment. At some places it might be called ``minimalistic". It is a mark of a true genius, to be able to express such a broad range of emotions with a minimum of technical tools. At the same time, the tools are used with astonishing skills. Modulations are frequent and daring (several Songs begin and end in different keys), Song 10 is entirely pentatonic, and the piano part is exquisite - you would not think it was written by a composer trained as a violinist ...

The depth of feeling, together with the mastery of melodic invention, put the Biblical Songs at the very pinnacle of Dvorak's work.

The Rev. Brent Damrow, Pastor

Dr. Sándor Szabó, Minister of Music

Will Garrison, Administrator | Ron Hanft, Financial Secretary

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