



*The First Congregational Church  
of the United Church of Christ  
Stockbridge, Massachusetts  
November 29, 2020  
10:00 a.m.  
First Sunday in Advent – Hope*

*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

Advent Hymns

Tracy Wilson

FRAMING WORDS

Rev. Brent Damrow

## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

written by Henry Nouwen

Elizabeth Young

**Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness,  
Send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.**

**We who have so much to do  
Seek quiet spaces to hear your voice.**

**We who are anxious over many things  
Look forward to your coming among us.**

**We who are blessed in so many ways  
Long for the complete joy of your kingdom.**

**We whose hearts are heavy  
Seek the joy of your presence.**

**We are your people walking in darkness yet seeking the light.  
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"**

CHIME

SOLO INTROIT        *Lord of All Hopefulness, verse 1*        John Demler, *baritone*  
Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

SLIDE SHOW

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

OPENING HYMN        *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You? (verse 1)*        See next page

ADVENT WREATH LITURGY        The Wheat Family

RESPONSE        *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You? (verse 2)*        See next page

WELCOME        Rev. Damrow

PASSING OF THE PEACE

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY        Hebrews 6:19

TIME WITH CHILDREN

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.**

## O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN 7.6.7.6 D

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

Trans. Catherine Winkworth and others, 1863; alt.

Melchior Teschner, 1614

Harm. William Henry Monk, 1861

1. O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
 2. Love caused Your in - car - na - tion, Love brought You down to me;  
 3. A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high,

Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 That will not fail nor leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, A lamp with - in my breast,  
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace  
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new,

To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
 In love all loves ex - cel - ling Our lost and fall - en race.  
 And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence —  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil —  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

SERMON

*Hope*

Rev. Damrow

SUNG RESPONSE

*Canto de Esperanza (Song of Hope) Argentine Folk Melody*

May the God of hope go with us every day, Filling all our  
Lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us  
On our way, Bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace, Singing, share our joy with all,  
Working for a world that's new, Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

GATHERING FOR PRAYER      *Ubi Caritas*

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.*

Where true love and charity are found, God himself is there.

*Sing antiphon twice: Latin, English, then our vocalist will sing one verse.*

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

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

PRAYER RESPONSE      *Ubi Caritas*

John Demler

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Damrow

OFFERTORY ANTHEM      *The People That Walked in Darkness* from "The Messiah"

G.F. Handel

The people that walked in darkness, that have seen a great light,

And they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,

Upon them hath the light shined.

DOXOLOGY

tune: Old 100th words: Roger Lynn

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace**

**Praise God for gifts of joy and love**

**Praise God for sending Christ to dwell**

**On earth for us - Emmanuel. Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

## GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

Rev. Damrow

SENDING CHARGE      Based on 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Don Eaton

Go now, strengthened by the testimony of Christ.

Keep alert and wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Continue to do right and remember God in your ways.

And as you do

May God bless and enrich you in speech and knowledge of every kind;

May Christ Jesus strengthen and uphold you to the end;

And may the Holy Spirit guide you in faithful living until he comes.

Amen.

Verses

1 & 2

Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)  
As in *Oxford Book of Carols*, 1964

BESANÇON 8.7.9.8.8.7

French folk melody  
Harm. Martin Shaw (1875-1958)



1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near Of the crown-ing of the  
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is plant-ed  
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the nest that must be  
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall



year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, Trim the  
 there: Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, That in  
 filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for  
 brim, Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, Bright as



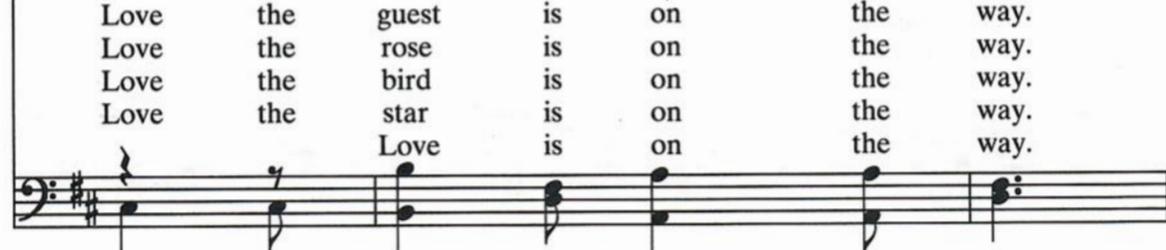
Peo-ple, look east and sing to - day:



hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo-ple, look east:  
 course the flower may flour - ish.  
 fledg - ing time has cho - sen.  
 sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo-ple, look east:



Love the guest is on the way.  
 Love the rose is on the way.  
 Love the bird is on the way.  
 Love the star is on the way.  
 Love is on the way.



5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
 Christ who brings new life to earth.  
 Set every peak and valley humming

With the word, the Lord is coming.  
 People, look east and sing today:  
 Love the Lord is on the way.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Damrow



POSTLUDE

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

Hugo Distler

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](http://stockbridgeucc.org)

**Join us for these opportunities this week:**

- 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, registration.*

To receive weekly emails or to be placed on our mailing list, please contact  
Will at [office@stockbridgeucc.org](mailto: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 (on leave)*

*Will Garrison, Administrator | Ron Hanft, Financial Secretary*

*(413) 298-3137*

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