



**Lent 2021**  
Pilgrims on a Journey

*The First Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ  
Stockbridge, Massachusetts  
Second Sunday in Lent  
February 28, 2021 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.  
All music notes by Noah Palmer.*

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC                      Three Preludes                      Claude Debussy

1. La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin (The Girl with the Flaxen Hair)
2. La Cathédrale Engloutie (The Sunken Cathedral)
3. Bruyeres (Heather)                      Noah Palmer, *piano*

You've all probably noticed by now that Debussy is one of my favorite composers! His music has a way of creating a calm, still, and often profound spiritual atmosphere. Debussy wrote titles to his Preludes as an afterthought -- almost a metaphorical suggestion rather than an overt imposition. The middle piece -- the Sunken Cathedral -- depicts church bells ringing as a magnificent tower rises from the sea.

FRAMING WORDS

Rev. Brent Damrow

# GATHERING IN WORSHIP

## INTROIT

*Come and Find the Quiet Center* (v. 1) Deryl Godshall, *tenor*  
words, Shirley E. Murray; music attr. B.F. White

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,  
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see  
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

## SHARING MOMENT

Elizabeth Young

## OPENING SONG

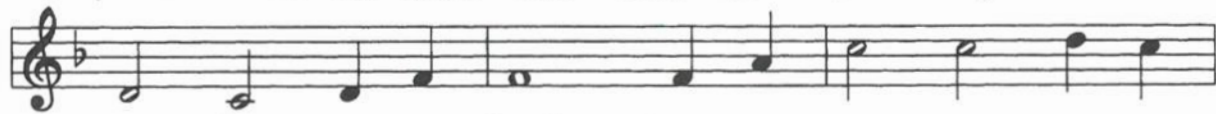
*Come and Find the Quiet Center* (vss. 2 & 3)



1. Come and find the qui - et cen - ter in the crowd-ed life we  
2. Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the  
3. In the Spir-it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth-er's



lead, find the room for hope to en - ter, find the  
pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our  
pain, let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e -



frame where we are freed: Clear the cha - os and the  
be - ing, touch-es base, mak-ing space with - in our  
brate the space we gain: There's a place for deep-est



clut - ter, clear our eyes that we can see all the  
think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the sun, rais - ing  
dream - ing, there's a time for heart to care, in the



things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim-ply be.  
cour - age when we're shrink-ing, find-ing scope for faith be - gun.  
Spir - it's live - ly schem-ing there is al - ways room to spare.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Damrow

## TIME OF CONFESSION

*Each of us pray differently. Confession is a personal matter where some desire structure and others complete lack of it. Each week we will offer a time of silence in which you may enter into confession. You may choose to be guided by the different prayer printed each week or you may choose your own path. May this season be one of discovery and honesty.*

From the Book of Common Prayer

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,  
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.  
Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear,  
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.  
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;  
open us to a future in which we can be changed;  
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image;  
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.**

## SONG OF CONFESSION

*Kyrie*

See page 8

*Note: the word eleison means "have mercy." The text simply translates Lord have mercy and Christ (have mercy). The beautiful tune is adapted from Dvorak's Ninth Symphony.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Damrow

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

### STORY

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Joe Roy

### TIME WITH CHILDREN

Today's covenant: *Surprises of Love*

Praying Together

Building our string heart art.

### SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 8:31-38

Anne Roy

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

continued

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

SERMON

*Surprising Reversals*

Rev. Damrow

HYMN

*Just as I Am*

Charlotte Elliott

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your  
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a  
 3 Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,  
 4 Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, And that you called in -  
 con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -  
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise  
 ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be yours, and

vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
 yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

# OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

SHARING OF PRAYERS

Rev. Damrow

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER RESPONSE

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer* (sung twice)

Taizé

The musical score is written for voice and piano in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Damrow

OFFERTORY ANTHEM      I'll Walk with God

Nicholas Brodzsky  
Deryl Godshall, *tenor*

This song was originally written for the film *The Student Prince* in 1954. Mario Lanza, the famous Italian-American singer, dubbed his incredible singing over the film's audio for the song. It's now become a staple of the popular lyric tenor repertoire.

I'll walk with god  
From this day on  
His helping hand I'll lean upon  
This is my prayer my humble plea  
May the lord be ever with me  
There is no death though eyes grow dim  
There is no fear when I'm near to him  
I'll lean on him forever  
And he'll forsake me never  
He will not fail me as long as my faith is strong  
What ever road I may walk alone  
I'll walk with god  
I'll take his hand  
I'll talk with god...

DOXOLOGY

Old 100<sup>th</sup>

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

BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

Rev. Damrow

CLOSING SONG

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

Jim Strathdee



The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his  
 (The) Lord bless and keep you, the Lord lift his



face to shine on you and be gra - cious, gra  
 coun - te - nance on you and give peace, — give you



cious. The  
 peace. Sha - lom. — Sha - lom. —  
 ( — A — — men.) —



POSTLUDE

*Tango from España*

Isaac Albeniz  
 Noah Palmer, *piano*

Albeniz's *Tango* is often performed as an elegant encore by pianists like Spanish virtuoso Alicia de Larrocha. The set features regional dances from all over Spain.

SONG OF CONFESSION

*Kyrie*



Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i -



son. Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e



e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, Chri - ste



e - le - i - son. Chri - ste, Chri - ste



e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e



e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e



e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.



**During Lent we will be offering a few things to make worship  
meaningful and alive:**

**Time with Children** – the stories from the Old Testament assigned for Lent are all about our Covenant with God. String art kits have been sent to our families with kids that we will use each week to bring the stories and their meaning to life. If you did not receive a kit or know a family who might enjoy one – let us know and we will get one out quickly!

**Stories of Encounter** – an important part of pilgrimage includes the encounters with others who are also on the road. Each week, we hope to include a story of unexpected encounter whether on intentional pilgrimage or simply on a trip to the post office during worship.

**Music** – as we journey, music not only becomes the soundtrack of our walking but also part of our vocabulary. Our practices of gathering, confession, prayer, and sending will use music drawn from a variety of traditions both to enrich worship as well as the days that follow.

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: [www.stockbridgeucc.org](http://www.stockbridgeucc.org)

For more information please contact Will at [office@stockbridgeucc.org](mailto:office@stockbridgeucc.org)

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*

*Noah Palmer, Worship Music Leader*

*(413) 298-3137*

All hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723107