



*The First Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ  
Stockbridge, Massachusetts  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
May 9, 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.*

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Ron Hanft, *keyboard*

*Morning Has Broken, Laura E. Wasson*

*When Morning Guilds the Skies, Martha Sobaje*

*Beach Spring, Elizabeth A. Krause*

In honor of all nurturing women this Mothers' Day, the Gathering Music and the Postlude are by women composers and arrangers.

FRAMING WORDS

Rev. Brent Damrow

## GATHERING IN WORSHIP

INTROIT

*Alleluia! Alleluia! (vs. 1) The Methodist Hymnal (1935)*

See next page for words. Jack Brown, *baritone*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Written by Bruce Pewter, based on Psalm 98 and John 15

Don Eaton

**One:** Here today there is love, freely available to all.

Not our human loving, fragile and intermittent, but God's supreme love.

**All:** **May a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth,  
break forth into joyous songs of praise.**

continued

One: Here today is love, higher than our loftiest hopes,  
deeper than the immensities of time and space, God's inclusive love.

All: **Let the seas roar their praise, and everything in them.  
Let the rivers clap their hands and the hills sing together their happiness.**

One: The joy of the living Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

verses 2 and 3

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise;  
2. Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born,  
3. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high;

Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise:  
Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal, On this ho - ly Eas - ter morn:  
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - iour Who has won the vic - to - ry;

He who on the cross as Sav - iour For the world's sal - va - tion bled,  
Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer By His might - y en - ter - prise;  
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty;

Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.  
We with Him to life e - ter - nal By His res - ur - rec - tion rise.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Maj - es - ty. A - MEN.

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY                      John 17:21    (*The Voice* translation)

Abba, may they all be one as You are in Me and I am in You; may they be in Us, for by this unity the world will believe that You sent Me.

TIME WITH CHILDREN    *In or Out?*

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.**

PSALM FOR THE WEEK    Psalm 98

SUNG PSALM              *New Songs of Celebration Render*                      Jack Brown, *baritone*

New songs of celebration render to God who has great wonders done;  
Love sits enthroned in ageless splendor; Come and adore the Mighty One.  
God has made known the great salvation which all his friends with joy confess.  
God has revealed to every nation truth and unending righteousness.

Joyfully, heartily resounding, let every instrument and voice  
Peal out the praise of grace abounding, calling the whole world to rejoice.  
Trumpets and organs, set in motion such sounds as make the heavens ring;  
All things that live in earth and ocean, sound forth the song, your praises bring.  
Rivers and seas and torrents roaring, honor the Lord with wild acclaim;  
Mountains and stones look up adoring, and find a voice to praise God's name.  
Righteous, commanding, ever glorious, praises be sung that never cease;  
Just is our God, whose truth victorious establishes the world in peace.

SCRIPTURE READING      Acts 10:44-48    Hal Brink

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

SERMON            *The Beloved Community: United and Uniting*            Rev. Damrow  
HYMN             *We Know that Christ is Raised* (vss. 1 & 2)            see page 5

## 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            *Fairest Lord Jesus*            arr. Krug  
Bell Choir

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM            *Finlandia*            Sibelius; arr. Krug  
Bell Choir

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

PRAYER OF CELEBRATION AND LAMENT FOR MOTHER'S DAY            see page 6

## GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS            Rev. Damrow

HYMN             *At the Font We Start Our Journey* (vss. 1 & 4)            see page 8

BENEDICTION            Rev. Damrow



POSTLUDE            *Holy God, We Praise Your Name!*            Janis Dunson Wilson  
Ron Hanft, keyboard

HYMN

We Know that Christ is Raised vss. 1 & 2

John Brownlow Geyer, 1969

Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904

1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. Em-braced by  
 2. We share by wa - ter in His sav - ing death. Re - born we  
 3. The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life. The Spir - it's  
 4. A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows As Christ's new

death He broke its fear - ful hold; And our de - spair He turned to  
 share with Him an Eas - ter life As liv - ing mem - bers of a  
 pow - er shakes the church of God. Bap - tized we live with God the  
 bod - y takes on flesh and blood. The u - ni - verse, re - stored and

blaz - ing joy.  
 liv - ing Christ. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Three in One.  
 whole, will sing:

Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

**Prayer of Celebration and Lament for Mother's Day**      Rev Sarah Agnew  
Readers: Ted Randolph and Elizabeth Young

**Bold is group one.**

*Italics is group two.*

**As a community,  
we take time to pause and give thanks for the gift of mothers.**

*Shining a light on the gift, shadows fall,  
and we acknowledge the shadows, too.*

**We celebrate and give thanks, each of us, for our mother.  
The woman who carried us in her womb, gave birth to us, brought us into life.**

*We lament, each of us, separation from our mother at different times,  
through conflict, distance of place, death.  
We lament, seek to forgive and be forgiven.*

**We celebrate and give thanks, each of us,  
for those who have been as mothers to us;  
our aunts and pseudo-aunts, big sisters, friends, mentors and teachers.  
The women who have nurtured, taught, encouraged, shaped us with love.**

*We lament, each of us, the women who have caused us pain,  
who have abandoned or neglected us,  
mistakenly or intentionally caused us harm.  
We lament the hurt we have caused to women,  
our friends, colleagues, neighbours, sisters, aunts and mothers.  
We lament, seek to forgive and be forgiven.*

**We celebrate and give thanks, together,  
for the women in our communities.  
That women and men are different invites us into partnership,  
invites us to share the burdens and the joys of life.  
For the many strengths of women, their gifts of peace-making,  
nurture, education, entrepreneurship, healing, wisdom,  
creativity, endurance, collaboration, physicality -  
and so much more, we are grateful.**

continued

*We lament, together, that women are still discounted  
because they are women, in our culture and in others.  
That the difference between women and men is seen as threatening,  
a power struggle, a competition or a hierarchy, is not, we know,  
your dream for us.  
We lament, seek to forgive and be forgiven.*

**We celebrate, those of us who are mothers and grandmothers,  
the joy and privilege it is to collaborate with you in the creation of life.  
We give thanks for our children, their uniqueness,  
the delight we find in watching and helping them grow.**

*We lament, those of us who are not mothers and want to be,  
or who are mothers of children who have died.  
We lament, and have no words for our grief.*

**We celebrate, we give thanks, for you, our mothering God,  
whose wings enfold us like those of a mother hen,  
who gives birth to all that lives,  
who loves fiercely, protectively, and with great delight.  
We celebrate what we know of you as like a mother.**

*We lament our turning from you and causing you pain,  
our rejection of your gifts of life and love in so many ways.  
We seek your forgiveness again and again.*

**Again and again, God welcomes us home,  
as a mother welcomes her children.  
Again and again, God celebrates us, God's children,  
and delights in watching and helping us grow.**

*Come, now, under the wings of God;  
come, now, into the warmth of Love.  
You are forgiven. You are loved.  
Precious child of your Mothering God.*



1 At the font we start our jour - ney, in the Eas - ter  
 2 At the pul - pit we are fash - ioned by the Eas - ter  
 3 At the al - tar we are nour - ished with the Eas - ter  
 4 At the door we are com - mis - sioned, now the Eas - ter

faith bap - tized; doubts and fears no long - er blind us,  
 tale re - told in - to wit - nes - ses and proph - ets,  
 gift of bread; in our break - ing it to piec - es  
 vic - tory's won, to re - store a world di - vid - ed

by the light of Christ sur - prised. Al - le - lu - ia,  
 by the power of Christ made bold. Al - le - lu - ia,  
 see the love of Christ out - spread. Al - le - lu - ia,  
 to the peace of Christ as one. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Hope held out and re - al - ized.  
 al - le - lu - ia! Faith pro - claimed, yet still un - told.  
 al - le - lu - ia! Life em - braced, yet free - ly shed.  
 al - le - lu - ia! Eas - ter's work must still be done.



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)

or contact Will at [office@stockbridgeucc.org](mailto:office@stockbridgeucc.org) | (413) 298-3137

*The Rev. Brent Damrow, Pastor*

*Dr. Sándor Szabó, Minister of Music (on leave)*

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

*Ron Hanft, Worship Music Leader*

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————— Stockbridge, Massachusetts —————