



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP
July 25, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

For those worshipping at home: 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

Welcome to worship. We ask, in care for all, that you keep your mask on any time you are not in your seat. Restrooms are available if needed.

GATHERING MUSIC

Ron Hanft

My Song is Love Unknown J.D. Edwards -- D. Burton & G. Lachenauer
O God Beyond All Praising Gustav Holst -- Charles Callahan

Two of the most revered British hymn tunes are Rhosymedre (c. 1850), set to the text "My Song is Love Unknown" and Thaxted (1921), from the orchestral work "The Planets," set to the text "O God Beyond All Praising." These several arrangements express the appeal and versatility of these well-loved themes.

FRAMING WORDS

Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

***All who are able, please stand.**

INTROIT

Seek Ye First arr: Karen Lafferty

Kids Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Anna Duhon

Written by Rev. Mindi on her Rev-o-lution Blog

One: God of the prophets, call to us today

All: Call us into Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

One: God of the poets, remind us again how much You love us

All: Sing to us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

One: God of the disciples, teach us how to follow You

All: Teach us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

One: God of all creation, help us to know Your ways

**All: We gather to hear Your call,
to sing Your praise,
to teach each other,
to pray and worship as the Body of Christ.**

*HYMN

O God Beyond All Praising

See page 6

WELCOME / PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Damrow

ANTHEM

Spring Up O Well arr: Lyndell Leatherman

Kids Choir

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY

2 Kings 4:42-44

Deb McMenemy

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, 'Give it to the people and let them eat.' But his servant said, 'How can I set this before a hundred people?' So he repeated, 'Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, "They shall eat and have some left." ' He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Amazing!*

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 Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever.

SERMON *Surpassing Knowledge* Rev. Damrow

*HYMN *How Great Thou Art* (vss. 1 & 4) Carl Gustav Boberg

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars,
I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my savior God, to Thee, how great Thou art,
How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my god, how great Thou art!

Refrain

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 by Emma Lou Diemer

Ron Hanft

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

You are invited to leave your offering in the donation box after worship.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Meditation in Blue by William Gillock

Ron Hanft

*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

SENDING CHARGE

Adapted from Robert Blezard

God, our guide and our protector,
as we leave your holy house to be your holy love,
open our minds and souls and hearts,
that we may be inclined to hear the gentle direction
of your spirit in our lives.

Help us follow you as you lead us
to the land you have created for us,
where we may dwell with you and in you. Amen.

*HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

See page 7

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Damrow



POSTLUDE

Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan by J. G. Walther

We welcome our visitors this morning. We are an Open and Affirming Church which means that we invite 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.

The Rev. Brent Damrow, Pastor

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

Will Garrison, Administrator | Ron Hanft, Financial Secretary
(413) 298-3137 | office@stockbridgeucc.org | stockbridgeucc.org

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O God Beyond All Praising

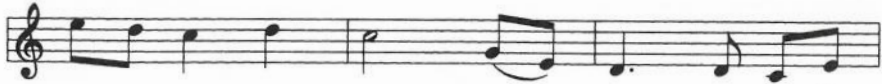
2009



1. O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to -
2. Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we



day and sing the love a-maz-ing that
bring, that we who know your fa-vor may



songs can-not re-pay; for we can on-ly
serve you as our king; and whe-ther our to-



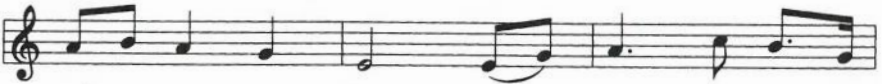
won-der at ev-ery gift you send, at
mor-rows be filled with good or ill, we'll



bles-sings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out
tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you



end: We lift our hearts be-fore you and
still: To mar-vel at your beau-ty and



wait up-on your Word, we hon-or and a-
glo-ry in your ways, and make a joy-ful



dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

WORDS: Michael Perry (Heb. 13:15)

MUSIC: Gustav T. Holst

THAXTED
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I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE CMD

*Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Wirtembergischen
Katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784; alt. 1868*

Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.

1. I sing the might-y power of God That made the moun-tains rise;
 2. I sing the good-ness of the Lord That filled the earth with food;
 3. There's not a plant or flower be-low But makes Thy glo - ries known;

That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad And built the loft - y skies.
 God formed the crea-tures with a word And then pro-nounced them good.
 And clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, By or - der from Thy throne;

I sing the wis-dom that or - dained The sun to rule the day;
 Lord, how Thy won-ders are dis - played, Wher - e'er I turn my eyes;
 While all that bor-rows life from Thee Is ev - er in Thy care,

The moon shines full at God's com-mand, And all the stars o - bey.
 If I sur - vey the ground I tread, Or gaze up - on the skies!
 And ev - ery - where that we can be, Thou, God, art pres-ent there.



Summer Fair

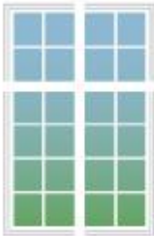


Sat., Aug. 14, 2021
10 am – 2 pm

Crafts • Baked Goods
Fresh Produce • Cut Flowers
• Silent Auction •



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
4 Main St., Stockbridge, MA



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH** UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Stockbridge, Massachusetts