



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

BLESSING AND SENDING SUNDAY
September 26, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to worship. You are invited to text the names of those attending to 413-644-6435 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 Portraits in Praise Tracy Wilson, *keyboard*
arrangements by Penny Rodriquez, Mark Albrecht,
Nancy Rabe and Pam Gervais

FRAMING WORDS Cathy Clark and Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT *Come Thou Fount* Bell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP Donna Jacobs

One: Come, children of God, rejoice in your Maker!

All: Sing songs and hymns, old and new;

One: celebrate with voices and instruments,

All: with praise and prayers!

One: Open your eyes to the life-giving presence of Jesus Christ.

All: For God is already here, among us and within us,

One: bringing new life to all who believe.

All: Let's praise God together!

came to you, it wasn't just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions.

You paid careful attention to the way we lived among you, and determined to live that way yourselves. In imitating us, you imitated the Master. Although great trouble accompanied the Word, you were able to take great joy from the Holy Spirit! – taking the trouble with the joy, the joy with the trouble.

Do you know that all over the provinces of both Macedonia and Achaia believers look up to you? The word has gotten around. Your lives are echoing the Master's Word, not only in the provinces but all over the place. The news of your faith in God is out. We don't even have to say anything anymore – you're the message!

*HYMN

Here I Am

by Daniel L. Schutte

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

Refrain:

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?**

Refrain

**I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide 'til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?**

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 413-644-6435

PRAYER RESPONSE

LITANY OF SENDING Adapted from UCC Book of Worship

Leader: In January of 2013 Brent began his ministry here with us in Stockbridge.

Brent: I thank this church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me in the last nine years. I am grateful for the ways you have embraced my leadership and partnered with me. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made – either what I have done or left undone.

People: We receive your gratitude and offer you the gift of forgiveness. We are grateful for your work with us and the ways you have been part of our lives. We ask forgiveness for our mistakes too.

Brent: I receive your gratitude and I also offer you the gift of forgiveness.

Leader: May these expressions of gratitude and forgiveness be a blessing on this upcoming time of sabbatical. May all of us go forth to rest, reflect, and discover new energy and beginnings rooted in our mutual love. Peace and grace be with us all.

SENDING RESPONSE *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Bell Choir

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Be Thou My Vision*

Bell Choir

*DOXOLOGY

Old 100th

**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

Rev. Damrow

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

*INVITATIONS

Rev. Damrow

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Rev. Damrow

CHARGE TO THE PASTOR

Cathy Clark

*BLESSING EACH OTHER FOR THE COMING MONTHS

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

See page 7

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Damrow



POSTLUDE Congregational Response *Go pilgrim* A surprise for Brent!

For Brent Damrow, on the occasion of his sabbatical leave

Go pilgrim

September, 2021

Words and music David Anderegg

Go pil - grim, go with all our grat - i - tude, For God com - mands your Sab - bath
We hope you will in - hab - it woods and seas, To con - tem - plate Cre - a - tion's ex -
our miss - ion, and our thoughts of

rest; May all your steps be sweet - ly blessed un - til you can come back to us re - newed.
pans; To walk in beau - ty and to dance a - long the edge of God's in - fin - i - ties.
you will teach us what we need to do, un - til we cel - e - brate your safe re - turn.

Hymn tune: DAMROW (inspired by SURSUM CORDA)

*Ps. 36:7-9**Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.*

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Converted to Methodism at age twenty, Robert Robinson soon became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and later gained great popularity. The melody, associated with this text since 1813, is an American folk tune.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

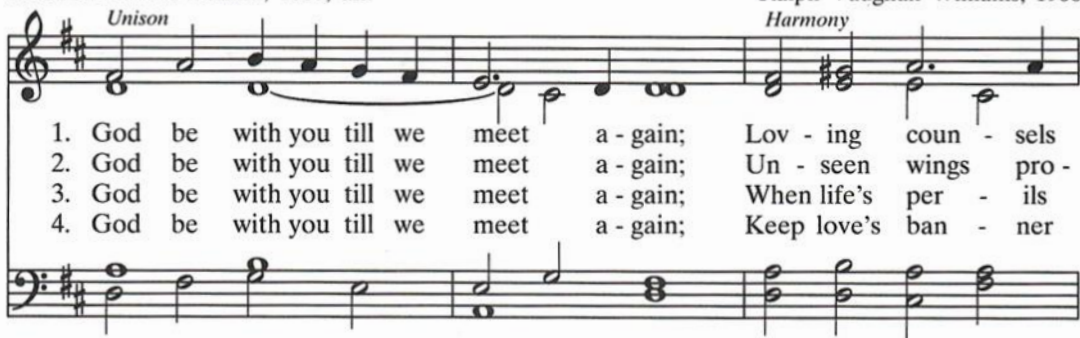
540 God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Jeremiah Eames Rankin, 1880; alt.

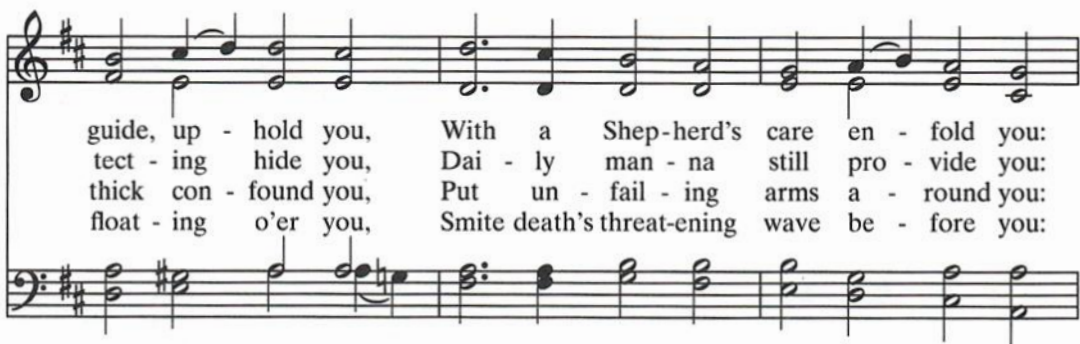
RANDOLPH 9.8.8.9

Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Unison *Harmony*



1. God be with you till we meet a - gain; Lov - ing coun - sels
2. God be with you till we meet a - gain; Un - seen wings pro -
3. God be with you till we meet a - gain; When life's per - ils
4. God be with you till we meet a - gain; Keep love's ban - ner



guide, up - hold you, With a Shep-herd's care en - fold you:
tect - ing hide you, Dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you:
thick con - found you, Put un - fail - ing arms a - round you:
float - ing o'er you, Smite death's threat-ening wave be - fore you:

Unison



God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Music: From the *English Hymnal*, 1906. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.

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

Tracy Wilson, Interim Minister of Music

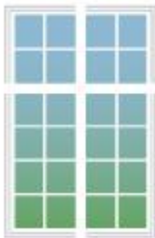
Will Garrison, Administrator | Ron Hanft, Financial Secretary

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(413) 298-3137 | office@stockbridgeucc.org | stockbridgeucc.org

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Current Covid guidelines set by the Re-Gathering Committee, consistent with Tri-Town Health Department directives, require that all wear masks to their seats. Those who are fully vaccinated may remove their masks while they remain in their seating area. Those who are over two and are not yet vaccinated are required to continue wearing their masks.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
————— Stockbridge, Massachusetts —————