



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP
October 10, 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.

For those in church: remember that masks are required for everyone. Thanks!

We thank JaQuan Beachem for leading worship today. Minister Beachem is the Director of Community Development and Spiritual Formation at Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC Two Reflections for Organ by Charles Callahan

Tracy Wilson

FRAMING WORDS

Minister JaQuan Beachem

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT

Have Mercy on Us, Living Lord

John Demler, *baritone*

CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Hebrews 4:12-16)

Don Eaton

One: The word of God is alive and active,
sharper than any two-edged sword,
piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow;
it can judge our thoughts and intentions of our hearts.

**All: We cannot hide for we are naked and laid bare
to the one whom we must render an account.**

continued

One: Let us hold fast to our confession before Jesus who was tested as you and I and yet was without sin.

**All: We approach the throne of grace with boldness,
so that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help in our time of need.**

*HYMN *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* See page 5

WELCOME Minister Beachem

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (written by Rev. Quentin Chin) Minister Beachem

Almighty and Holy One,

we cannot begin to count all our possessions.

We have things in our closets, our attics, and our basements.

We have things tucked away in boxes we haven't opened in years,
and still we acquire more.

We have so much stuff and yet, there are those in our communities
who can fit all their worldly possessions in a shopping cart.

We know that you, O God, will defend the poor and come to them in their
need.

But we, O God, need your forgiveness

for we are more attached to our things than we willingly acknowledge.

Help us confront our attachment to possessions and things more honestly
so we can share our own abundance more equitably. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE Don Eaton

We draw false and fleeting comfort from our material things.

True comfort comes from God's love for us

and by responding with that same love to family, friend, neighbor, and
stranger.

By God's love we are forgiven. Let us do likewise. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE Minister Beachem

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Minister Beachem

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 Mark 10:17-31

Elizabeth Young

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake

continued

of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.’

SERMON *For Good* Minister Beachem

*HYMN *God of Compassion, In Mercy Befriend Us* See page 6

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS Minister Beachem

If you have not yet done so, please text any joys or concerns to 413-644-6435.

PASTORAL PRAYER Minister Beachem

PRAYER RESPONSE Tracy Wilson

CALL FOR THE OFFERING Minister Beachem

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *For the Mountains Shall Depart* by Mendelssohn
John Demler, *baritone*

*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 Minister Beachem

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

*INVITATIONS Don Eaton

*HYMN *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* See page 7

*BENEDICTION Minister Beachem

POSTLUDE *The Rejoicing* by Charles Callahan Tracy Wilson

298 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7 D

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

Dutch melody
Arr. Julius Röntgen (1855-1933)

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the mea-sures of the mind;

There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.
And the heart of the E - ter-nal Is most won-der - ful - ly kind.

There is no place where earth's sor-rows Are more felt than up in heav-en;
If our love were but more faith-ful, We would glad-ly trust God's Word;

There is no place where earth's fail-ings Have such kind-ly judg - ment given.
And our lives re - flect thanks-giv-ing For the good-ness of our Lord.

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us 261

O QUANTA QUALIA 11.11.11.11

Paris Antiphoner, 1681

John J. Moment, 1933

As in La Feillée's *Méthode du plain-chant*, 1808

1. God of com - pas - sion, in mer - cy be - friend us;
2. Wan - dering and lost, Thou hast sought us and found us,
3. How shall we stray, with Thy hand to di - rect us,

Giv - er of grace for our needs all - a - vail - ing,
Stilled our rude hearts with Thy word of con - sol - ing;
Thou who the stars in their cours - es art guid - ing?

Wis - dom and strength for each day do Thou send us,
Wrap now Thy peace, like a man - tle, a - round us,
What shall we fear, with Thy power to pro - tect us,

Pa - tience un - tir - ing and cour - age un - fail - ing.
Guard - ing our thoughts and our pas - sions con - trol - ling.
We who walk forth in Thy great - ness con - fid - ing?

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

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Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 Je - sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease
4 Glo - ry to God, and love and praise be ev - er, ev - er given

The glo - ries ev - er ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God's grace!
To spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
Is mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
By all the saints in ev - ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

The hymn is a cento from a longer poem of eighteen stanzas written by Charles Wesley on the first anniversary of his conversion. The present form of the hymn is one edited by John Wesley for The Wesleyan Hymn Book, 1780.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828
Adapt. in L. Mason's Modern Psalmody, 1839
Alternate tune: RICHMOND

Our guest pastor: An advocate & artist born and groomed in the suburbs of Atlanta, JaQuan Beachem is a 2021 Master of Divinity graduate of Yale Divinity School. JaQuan is a Member in Discernment with the United Church of Christ currently serving as the Director of Community Development & Spiritual Formation at Andover Newton Seminary at Yale. In their leisure, JaQuan enjoys jamming out to music, honing his yoga practice, tasting a new recipe, and noticing things bloom!

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 (on sabbatical)

Tracy Wilson, Interim Minister of Music

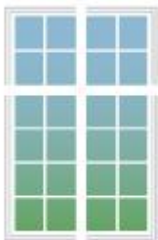
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Diego Salinetti, Livestream Technician

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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 indoors, regardless of vaccination status.



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