



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP
November 21, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Welcome! You are invited to text the names of those attending to 413-644-6435 so 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 Jyrekis Collins for leading worship today. Minister Collins is a third year Master of Divinity student at Yale Divinity School.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC Hymn Preludes for the Autumn, arr. Wilbur Held
Tracy Wilson, *organ*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION Don Eaton

FRAMING WORDS Minister Jyrekis Collins

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT *God is My Shepherd*, Dvorak John Demler, *baritone*

CALL TO WORSHIP Don Eaton

God you are our refuge. You are the shore in sight, you are the hands that reach out, you are the ground on which we rest. God you are our strength. You are the life we long for, you are the refusal to give up, you are the keys of home we carry with us. God you are our help in times of trouble. We call on you from the ruins and the rubble, we call on you from the wilderness and the deep, we call on you to meet us in this place!

*HYMN

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

See page 5

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Minister Collins

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY

1 Samuel 17:45

Minister Collins

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Courage

Minister Collins

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.

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

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 23:1-6

Rev. Barbara Kershner

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SERMON

How to keep from losing your head

Minister Collins

*HYMN

I Surrender All

See page 6

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER	Minister Collins
PRAYER RESPONSE	Tracy Wilson
CALL FOR THE OFFERING	Minister Collins
OFFERTORY ANTHEM	<i>Thanks be to God, Handel</i> John Demler, <i>baritone</i>
ACT OF CONSECRATION	Don Rodgers
One:	Holy and Gracious God
All:	We give you thanks for the gift of life, for the gift of your Son, for the gift of the Holy Spirit
One:	We come this day to dedicate our lives and our treasure to your work through the ministries of this church
All:	Lead us with grace, with love, with peace
One:	As we prepare to commit ourselves to you,
All:	Fill us with hope, with patience, with stamina
One:	Through these pledges, transform us in your image, in your Son, in your Name
All:	Transform us to grow to understand to see
One:	Take us and root us in love – your love – deep love
All:	That through your love we become the hands and heart of Christ, your love incarnate.
BRINGING FORTH PLEDGES	Don Rodgers
PRAYER OF CONSECRATION	Minister Collins
	God of pledges and promises
	Of love and life
	Of each of us individually and all of us collectively
	We give thanks for the call you have placed upon our hearts
	For the journey you have set beneath our feet
	And for the blessings given that we might be a blessing

continued

Send down your Holy Spirit upon These Promises nestled here
And Upon those who have made them
Consecrate these gifts to your use
Consecrate us to your heart
May these things make a whole new world
And through the giving make us a whole new people
In the name of the one who gave it all
Even Jesus Christ
Let us Say...Amen

*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.**

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

*INVITATIONS

Don Eaton

*HYMN

We Praise You, O God

See page 7

*BENEDICTION

Minister Collins



POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God, arr. Kaufmann

Tracy Wilson, *organ*

Current Covid guidelines set by the ReGathering Committee, consistent with Tri-Town Health Department directives, require that all wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

281 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

William Williams, 1745

Stanza 1 trans. Peter Williams, 1771

Stanzas 2-3 trans. William Williams, 1772

John Hughes, 1907

1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me
stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar Lead me
fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, Land me

with Thy power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through; Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
safe on Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
Be Thou still my strength and shield, Be Thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee.

I Surrender All

D^b A^{b7} D^b A^{b7} D^b

1 All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, all to him I free-ly give;
 2 All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, make me, Sav-ior, whol-ly thine;
 3 All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, Lord, I give my-self to thee;

A^{b7} D^b A^{b7} D^b

I will ev-er love and trust him, in his pres-ence dai-ly live.
 let me feel thy Ho-ly Spir-it, tru-ly know that thou art mine.
 fill me with thy love and pow-er, let thy bless-ing fall on me.

Refrain D^b A^{b7} D^b

I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all;
I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all.

G^b D^{b/A^b} A^{b7} D^b

all to thee, my bless-ed Sav-ior, I sur-ren-der all.

Words: Judson W. VanDeVenter, P.D.
 Music (SURRENDER 8.7.8.7 refrain 5.5.8.5): Winfield S. Weeden, P.D.

We Praise You, O God

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Julia C. Cory, 1902; alt.

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our moth - ers and fa - thers;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our song of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you nev - er will for - sake us,
Our sins now con - fess - ing, we pray for your bless - ing;

we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O God, in life's strug - gles we win.
to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Julia Bulkley Cady Cory wrote this hymn for Thanksgiving in 1902 at the invitation of the organist of New York's Brick Presbyterian Church who felt that the familiar words to Kremser contained too much militaristic imagery.

Tune: KREMSEK 12.11.12.11.
Valerius, Nederlandsch Gedenklanck, 1626

Our guest preacher: Jyrekis B. Collins is a native of Athens, Georgia and is a graduate of Clarke Central High School. He is a minister of the gospel, on fire for Jesus Christ. Jyrekis has an earned Bachelor of Arts degree from the prestigious Morehouse College in Atlanta where he studied Religion. Jyrekis is currently a Master of Divinity candidate at Yale University Divinity School in New Haven, CT. At Yale he has served as the Yale Black Seminars historian, Vice President and is currently the acting president.

He also is the music and arts coordinator for the Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. Jyrekis has also worked as a special research assistant to Dr. Donyelle McCray, associate professor of homiletics at Yale.

Jyrekis is interested in homiletics, telling the narratives of black preachers - working to ensure that the oral and written histories of black preachers are preserved. Jyrekis is committed to lifelong learning and plans to pursue a doctoral degree. Jyrekis is a lover of local coffee, and in his free time enjoys reading and spending quality time with friends and loved ones!

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

Will Garrison, Administrator | Ron Hanft, Financial Secretary

Diego Salinetti, Livestream Technician

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