



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

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. SUNDAY
January 23, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

For those worshipping at home: 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, covering nose and mouth, are required for everyone over the age of two. Thanks!

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Note: Candle stations are available at the back of the Sanctuary to use during worship to lift up a prayer when/as needed. Please observe social distancing.

GATHERING MUSIC

Now All the Woods Are Sleeping

arr. F. Fram & C. Callahan

Ron Hanft, *organ*; Nellie Rustick, *soprano*

Now all the woods are sleeping...

and cities pause to rest.

Let us, with coldness 'round us...

sing praise to God who loves us best.

FRAMING WORDS

Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

**All who are able, please stand.*

INTROIT

Come Sing to God, verse 1

Nellie Rustick

Come sing to God, O living saints, sing praises to God's name.

God's anger is not permanent, God's love will never wane.

Though tears may tarry for the night with sighs of deepest pain,

Yet joy comes with the morning sun, a peace that is not vain.

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of justice and mercy, draw near us on this day as we gather in your holy house to be transformed by your grace. Help us on this day to see your image in the face of everyone we see. Inspire our worship, embolden our hearts, and transform our living that your kingdom might be revealed in our midst. Help us to see the new beginnings that you offer to us with each new breath. We pray all this in the name of the one we follow. Amen

*HYMN

This is a Day of New Beginnings

See page 7

*CALL TO WORSHIP

by Joan Stott, based on Psalm 30:4-5

Donna Jacobs

One: We gather to praise and honour the Lord, our Saving God.
Today, we sing our reverent thanks to our loving God.

All: As individuals and as a community, we praise and thank our God for giving us a sense of healing and wholeness.

One: When we cried out to you in our sorrow and despair,
you turned our night-time grief into morning's joy.

**All: Listening God, we rejoice in the security you give us,
because of your past mercy and goodness towards us.**

One: O Lord our God, we will thank you always and forever.
We will not be silent! Your love for us is so wonderful!

**All: Holy God, you have turned our sorrows into gladness,
and our despair into joy. O God, how great is your love! Amen.**

WELCOME

Rev. Damrow and Donna Jacobs

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Damrow

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY

Galatians 3:28

Rev. Damrow

TIME WITH CHILDREN

The 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 READINGS

Amos 5:24

But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Isaiah 40:4-5

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

READING FROM OUR TIMES

Excerpt from the letter from the Birmingham Jail

SERMON

Strength

Rev. Damrow

*HYMN

Let Justice Flow like Streams

See page 8

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

Rev. Damrow

PRAYER RESPONSE

Come Sing to God, verse 4

Nellie Rustick

You change my grief to joy filled dance, my sorrows you destroy.
In faithfulness you hear my cry and fill my life with joy.
And so to you my heart shall sing, my voice your goodness raise.
You are my god, for ever more, my life shall sing your praise.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Damrow

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Every Valley Shall Rise* (Isaiah 40: 4-5), B. Burroughs
Nellie Rustick, *soprano*

Every valley will rise to even ground, every mountain will be low to the plane.
The crooked paths will be made straight before my eyes, and the rough places
smooth.

For the mouth of the Lord has given the Word! And it shall be done!

*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

One: Compassionate God, thank you that you are our strength and our song,
you fill our hearts with joy.

All: May we give our offerings to you with gladness and joy.

One: Everything we have belongs to you and we rejoice to give some of your
abundant gifts back to you.

All: Bless the tithes and offerings we give today.

One: Let the majesty of our God be the light that guides us, the compassion of
the Son be the love that inspires us and the presence of the Spirit be the
power that empowers us.

All: Amen

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

*INVITATIONS

Rev. Damrow

*SENDING CHARGE

One: Now, go forth from this place with renewed inspiration to do the work of God. Seek good, not evil, love goodness, and establish justice.

All: **This the greatest offering we can make; letting justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

One: Go knowing that you go with and in a great line of faithful and that your toil is never in vain.

All: **Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Amen.**

Adapted from a benediction by Phyllis Tenney of the Church of the Brethren.

*HYMN

God of Change and Glory

Nellie Rustick will begin by singing the refrain to teach the congregation the tune. She will then sing the verses; congregation sings the refrain.

1. God of change and glory, God of time and space,
When we fear the future, give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways, give us still the grace to praise.

Refrain

2. God of many colors, God of many signs,
You have made us different, blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast out our fear.

Refrain

The musical score is written on four staves of music. The first staff contains the lyrics: "Man - y gifts, one Spir - it, one love known in man - y ways." The second staff contains: "In our dif - fer - ence is bless - ing, from di - ver - si - ty we praise". The third staff contains: "one Giv - er, one Word, one Spir - it, one God known in man - y ways,". The fourth staff contains: "hal - low - ing our days. For the Giv - er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!". Chord symbols (C, F, G, C7) are placed above the notes to indicate the accompaniment.



POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in B Flat, David Blackwell Ron Hanft, organ

Mark your calendars:

- The 2021 financial reports and 2022 proposed budget will be sent out via email on Monday, January 24. Printed copies available in the office.
- Immediately following worship on January 30, there will be a Q & A session about the 2022 budget, in person and on Zoom.
- The Annual Budget Meeting will be held February 6 at 11:00am.

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

Will Garrison, Administrator | Ron Hanft, Financial Secretary

Diego Salinetti, Livestream Technician

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This Is a Day of New Beginnings

2 Cor. 5:16-17

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

Brian Wren wrote this hymn in 1978 for a New Year's Day service in Oxford, England. The music is by the editor of two hymnals of the United Methodist Church and was composed for the original Wren text.

Tune: BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.
 Carlton R. Young, 1987

Let Justice Flow like Streams

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Jane Parker Huber, 1984

Amos 5:14-15, 24; 7:7-8

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spark - ling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

En - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
An ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
And jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

This is one of two hymns Jane Parker Huber wrote for special events emphasizing economic justice for women at the time of the reunification of two Presbyterian denominations in 1983. The text's brevity underscores the urgency of Amos' pronouncements against injustice.

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.
Aaron Williams' New Universal Psalmist, 1770