



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

JUSTICE SUNDAY
May 15, 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. **Please also include prayers of joys and concerns as we will name them as we begin worship.**

For those in church: Masks are optional, but masking is always welcome. Also, there is a section where masking and distancing are required. The Deacons are available for assistance.

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

John Demler, baritone David Anderegg, piano

Justice music medley:

Oh, Mary don't you weep

He's got the whole world in His hands

This little light of mine

FRAMING WORDS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

INTROIT

Hard Times Come Again No More, Stephen Foster

*HYMN *For the Healing of the Nations* vss. 1-2 See page 6

*CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Psalm 103 Don Eaton

One: With all my heart, I praise the Lord!

All: With all that I am, I praise God's holy name!

One: Here and now, let us remember God's kindness.

**All: God forgives our sins, heals us when we are sick,
and protects us from death.**

One: Here and now, let us remember God's generosity.

**All: God crowns us with steadfast love and mercy. God restores our youth;
giving us the strength of eagles.**

One: Hear and now, let us remember God's goodness

**All: For all who are mistreated, the LORD brings justice. God shows us the
way to live through holy acts of love and grace.**

One: God is merciful and gracious,

All: Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

*HYMN *For the Healing of the Nations* vss. 3-4 See page 6

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

WELCOME

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY Psalm 37:27-28a; Psalm 89:14

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Justice*

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.**

Children are invited to take part in Sunday School classes.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Cindy Brown

SCRIPTURE READING Micah 6:1-8

Ronnie Cunningham

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

REFLECTION

Perfection

Rev. Brent Damrow

*HYMN

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

See page 7

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER RESPONSE

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Pretty Jesus* Words/music by David Andereg

*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 *Justice Task Force* Jeremy Ridenour

*SENDING CHARGE written by Jan Richardson Ashley Collins

May the path that Christ walks

to bring justice upon the earth,

to bring light to those who sit in darkness,

to bring out those who live in bondage,

to bring new things

to all creation:

may this path run through our life.

May we be the road Christ takes.

We welcome our visitors this morning and invite you to a time of food & fellowship following worship where we hope to greet you personally.

*HYMN

We Offer Christ

See page 8

*BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE

Hope machine

Words/music by David Anderegg
John Demler, *baritone*

Next Sunday, May 22, gathered worship will be outside on the front lawn.

Music notes:

Stephen Foster's "Hard Times Come Again No More," written in 1855, was a favorite of both armies during the Civil War, and was said to be Abraham Lincoln's favorite song.

"Pretty Jesus" is one of a set of songs entitled "Songs from a bad year," written during the height of the recent pandemic. The song is dedicated "to front-line workers everywhere."

"Hope machine" was written for The Hoping Machine, a local band that plays justice and protest music at rallies, demonstrations and celebrations.

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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Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 Henry Purcell, c. 1680
 Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

Let Justice Flow like Streams

588

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

We Offer Christ

527

Brian Wren, 1986

1 We of-fer Christ to all the world a-round us, born in-to faith,
2 We of-fer Christ from all our best tra-di-tions, by grace a-lone,
3 We of-fer Christ the bar-ri-er-be-strid-er, whose full-ness far
4 We of-fer Christ and, God-be-loved, our Sav-ior now of-fers us,

re-leased from pride and shame; Em-braced by love, we show how
a-mazed and strange-ly warmed, Cre-a-ted e-qual, stirred by
ex-ceeds our lo-cal view, Whose Spir-it, breath-ing deep in
born of the Spir-it's kiss, to love cre-a-tion and cre-

love has found us; at peace with God, we speak our Sav-ior's name.
free-dom-vi-sions, self-crit-i-cal, pre-pared to be re-formed.
ev-ery cul-ture, brings Christ to us, the same, yet strange-ly new.
a-tion's Lov-er, with skill, com-pas-sion, jus-tice, care and peace.

"We Offer Christ" was commissioned by St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, South Carolina, for its 150th anniversary. The opening phrase derives from John Wesley's advice to Thomas Coke as he departed for America: "Offer them Christ."

Tune: CHARTERHOUSE 11.10.11.10.
David Evans, 1927

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