



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

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
October 2, 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 in worship.

****Note** – on communion Sundays, we invite our children to begin in Sunday School so that they can return to the Sanctuary for Communion.**

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC Medley of Communion Hymns Peter Frost

FRAMING WORDS Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT *Heleluyan*, Muscogee (Creek) Nation,
transcribed by Charles Webb

GATHERING PRAYER From Worship Ways, UCC Website Don Rodgers

God, the encourager, God, the compassionate,
God, the merciful, holy, blessed: Disturb us. Rouse us from our sleep.
Lift us into consciousness of your presence.
Change us, move us, mold us for the better;
so that, at the sound of your voice,
at the call of our name, we will never be the same.
May our worship do this and so much more,
in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

*HYMN

Gather Us In



1. Here in this place new light is stream-ing,
2. We are the young — our lives are a mys - t'ry,
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,
4. Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing,



now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
we are the old — who yearn for your face,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
not in some heav - en, light - years a - way, but



see in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day. —
called to be light to the whole hu-man race. —
call us a - new to be salt for the earth. —
now is the King-dom, now is the day. —



Gath-er us in — the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in — the
Gath-er us in — the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in — the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



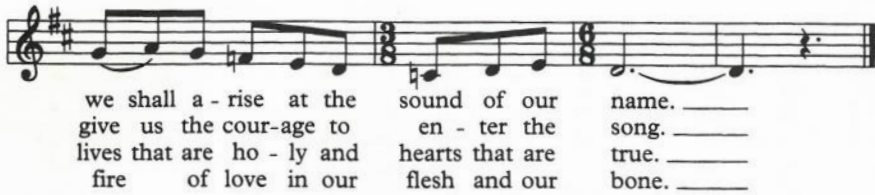
blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in — all peo-ples to-geth-er,

WORDS: Marty Haugen (Matt. 5:13)
MUSIC: Marty Haugen

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GATHER US IN
Irregular

continued



*CALL TO WORSHIP From the Iona Community Elizabeth Young

One: In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna,

Many: He was always the guest.

One: At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor,

Many: He was always the guest.

One: Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger,

Many: He was always the guest.

One: But here, at this table...

Many: He is the host.

One: Those who wish to serve him, must first be served by him,

Many: Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him.

One: For this is the table God sets before us,

Many: This is the time when Christ can make us new.

One: So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world.

Many: Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables now invites us to be guests at his.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Damrow

WELCOME

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

MOMENT OF SHARING

Neighbors in Need

Tracy Wilson

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 John 17:20-23

Ted Randolph

REFLECTION

Prayers, Presence, Proclamations

Rev. Damrow

*HYMN

We Are Your People

See page 6

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

UNISON PRAYER Adapted from the United Church of Canada

Michael Deegan

**Thank you, Jesus, for the opportunity to remember you
in the ordinary things of our lives.**

**When we eat our daily bread, rice, tortilla, or potato,
we remember how you shared what you had with your friends,
breaking yourself open.**

**When we drink from the fruits of our harvest,
we are reminded of how you continually bless us
with your teachings;**

our chipped and well-used cups overflow.

Meet us in this moment and our needs.

Bless our places of joy and burden.

Enfold us in the shelter of your wings.

Bind us together, make us one. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Let us break bread together (Spiritual)

Arr. by Melvin Wilson Costen (1988)

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Damrow

OFFERTORY

Many and Great, by Ricky Manelo

*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

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Damrow

SHARING THE STORY

BLESSING THE FEAST

Built on a Prayer for World Communion
Sunday, by Rev. Mindi

SHARING THE MEAL

SUNG PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer; tune anon., from South Africa

ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We invite you to give to your local food pantry. You can also leave canned goods and staples for the People's Pantry in the baskets at each exit.

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Don Rodgers

*INVITATIONS

Rev. Damrow

*HYMN

O for a World

See page 7

*BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (Mit Freuden Zart)
Arr. by Bob Burroughs

Music notes

We welcome Lily Lothrop today. Lily will be our Soprano Section Leader/Soloist in our adult choir. Lily is currently living in Troy, New York, where she is teaching voice at Troy Music Academy and Emma Willard School. As a native of Berkshire County, she is happy to be back in the area to sing. Welcome Lily Lothrop.

~ Peter Frost

Brian Wren, 1973; rev. 1993

Unison

1 We are your peo - ple: Spir - it of grace,
 2 Joined in com - mu - ni - ty, trea - sured and fed,
 3 Rich in di - ver - si - ty, help us to live
 4 Glad of tra - di - tion, help us to see

you dare to make us Christ to our neigh - bors
 may we dis - cov - er gifts in each oth - er,
 clos - er than neigh-bors, o - pen to strang - ers,
 in all life's chang-ing, where Christ is lead - ing,

1 & 6 *Last time, end* 2-5

of ev - ery cul - ture and place. lead and be led.
 will - ing to clash and for - give.
 a - ble to ef - forts should be.
 where our best

5 Give, as we ven-ture
 jus-tice and care
 (peace-ful, in-sist-ing,
 risk-ing, re-sist-ing),
 wis-dom to know when and where.

6 Spir-it, u-nite us,
 make us, by grace,
 will-ing and read-y,
 Christ's liv-ing bod-y,
 lov-ing the whole hu-man race.

Originally written in 1973 for the hymnal of the United Reformed Church in England and Wales, New Church Praise, this text was revised by Brian Wren in 1993. The tune is named for the composer's father-in-law, who served as chair of the Congregational Union of England and Wales.

Tune: WHITFIELD Irr.
 John Wilson, 1975

O for a World

575

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues" and the familiar tune Azmon, Miriam Therese Winter wrote this hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828
Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839

Welcome! 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
Peter Frost, Minister of Music
Will Garrison, Administrator

Marion Pomeroy, Financial Secretary

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Neighbors in Need

Annual Offering

If someone ever asks you, Is your church 5 for 5? You can say YES! What is 5 for 5, you say? Well, our congregation is one of nearly 1,600 UCC churches that are 5 for 5. This means that we fully support the United Church of Christ's program called "Our Church's Wider Mission," along with all four of our denomination's special mission offerings which occur at different times of the year. Through your financial pledges to this church, the Mission & Action Board is able to give \$500 each to "Our Church's Wider Mission" and to the four special offerings.

Today, October 2, is World Communion Sunday. On this day, the UCC is highlighting the offering called Neighbors in Need, which supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including support for the Council for American Indian Ministry, and a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

This year's Neighbors in Need offering focuses on economic justice. Two-thirds of the offering is used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to support UCC churches and organizations in doing justice, seeking peace, and building vibrant faith communities that are welcoming to all. One-third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry, which is the voice for American Indian people in the UCC, providing Christian ministry and witness to American Indians and to the wider church.

In the past, our church would take up a special offering from the congregation for Neighbors in Need. For the past few years, we have instead put part of your annual pledge money into the Mission & Action operating budget, and we have given \$500 from that budget to Neighbors in Need each year. That is what we're doing this year as well. While we are not asking for contributions to the offering this year, Mission & Action wanted to let you know about this important ministry that your pledge dollars are helping to support.

Through this offering we express our deep commitment to reaching out and touching our neighbors with justice and compassion. This allows us to speak prophetically to those in power and to advocate for a society where all people have a voice in decisions that affect their lives. In the spirit of Christ, we seek to confront evil in the world and to alleviate suffering.