



TIME OF CENTERING/OPENING MUSIC

Be Still My Soul

INVOCATION AND OPENING PRAYER

O thou fount of life and every blessing, from whom flows our best possibilities, as we enter into this sacred moment of worship, may our sorrows be lifted, our joys engaged, our hopes energized & our love for you and our neighbor deepened. Open our hearts to your spirit that dances here and now offering us the gift of new creation just as it danced over the waters of your great creation.

We enter into a time of silence. Do not worry if your mind wanders; we are like God's children who have crawled into God's lap; we remain in God's lap, caressed and cared for even when our minds wander elsewhere.

SCRIPTURE READING

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRAYING TOGETHER

Praying in thanks and praise.
Praying for needs and burdens.

CENTERING MUSIC

Amazing Grace

PRAYING TOGETHER

Praying for fullness and confession.
Praying for direction and protection.

CENTERING MUSIC

Grace

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING PRAYER

The way is long, let us go together.
The way is difficult, let us help each other.
The way is joyful, let us share it.
The way is Christ's, for Christ is the Way, let us follow.
The way is open before us, let us go:

With the love of God
The grace of Christ, and
The communion of the Holy Spirit

SHARING OF THE PEACE

WELCOME

A place grounded in the love and grace of God...

A diverse and growing Christian community of extravagant welcome...

A church that leans on the Spirit of its history to claim its progressive present reality.

Welcome to the First Congregational Church, UCC, in Stockbridge. Here in our historic New England sanctuary we gather to meet our still-speaking God in new and fresh ways. Our dynamic and relevant worship is the center of our life together. Here we encounter God's grace and love, discover truth and meaning, and seek to apply our faith to the countless decisions we make every day. We value inspired preaching, glorious music, fellowship that fosters our relationships with God and with each other, and learning and service that deepen our connection to Christ, the world, and one another.

We are an Open and Affirming congregation made up of old and young; gay and straight; married, single and partnered; those who have it all figured out and those searching for where to begin; lifelong Christians and some who are still skeptical of faith; those who are riding high on life and those a little down on their luck. We welcome you no matter who you are and where you are on life's journey. While our founding dates back to 1734 and names like John Sergeant and Jonathan Edwards grace the pages of our history, we take seriously the church's call to make the Christian faith our own in this generation. We honor those who have come before while serving those who are in our midst today. We hope that you will learn about us on our website, but even better – come spend time with us at worship, in service or in study!

Sunday Worship—10:00 a.m.

Childcare Available During Worship



WINTER MORNING PRAYER

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
Stockbridge, MA

stockbridgeucc.org
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