

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT *March 5, 2023 – 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.

For those in church: Masks are optional, but masking is always welcome. The balcony and a section of the first floor are designated as masking required.

# PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Sarabande, by Jean-Marie Leclair

FRAMING WORDS

PRELUDE

The Rev. Dr. Richard Floyd

### **GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

INTROIT My Song is Love Unknown

TIME OF SILENCE/BRINGING IN OF THE LIGHT

\*HYMN In the Cross of Christ I Glory See page 5

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 121

Michael Deegan

Peter Frost

One: I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come?

Many: My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

One: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

Many: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

continued

One: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

Many: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

One: The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

Many: The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are invited to take part in Sunday School classes.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Saving God, we are your people yet the world cannot see this.

We are your children, and fail to live in peace.

We are your voices and choose to be silent.

We are your hands and feet and walk a different road.

Forgive us, for ignoring your love,

for brushing aside your hand and trusting our own wisdom.

Enable us to worship you in spirit and in truth,

to bring to you our joyful songs in the everyday moments of our lives; that your name might be glorified through our words and lives. Amen

# \*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

\*SUNG RESPONSE The Old Rugged Cross, vs. 2

- vs. 2 Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me; For the dear Lamb of God left the glory of heaven to bear it to cold Calvary.
- refrain So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Floyd

Rev. Floyd

Rev. Floyd

Jo Ann Levitt

Rev. Floyd

## **OFFERING OUR GIFTS**

Ken Ward **JOYS AND CONCERNS** TIME OF SILENCE PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Floyd

Old 100th

\*DOXOLOGY Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; One God, Triune, whom we adore.

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God, receive these gifts - and give us open hands Fill our lives - and give us open hearts Touch us with prophecy - and give us open minds Bless these churches - and give us open doors. (Maren C. Tirabassi)

### THE GIFT OF THE WORD

A RE-IMAGINING based on John 3:1-17		Cindy Brown
Written by Cindy Brown, Marilyn Strauch, Rick Floyd		
REFLECTION	How Can This Be?	Rev. Floyd
*HYMN	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross	See page 8
<b>OFFERING OURSELVES</b>		

## Remember to place your prayer tags in the offering plates if you would like them lifted. They will be read as written. You may also place your prayers

directly on the prayer tree after worship.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY
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**Open Thou Mine Eyes** words by L. Andrews; music by J. Rutter

Rev. Floyd

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#### 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.

PRAYER RESPONSE Sevenfold Amen, by John Stainer

#### GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

\*INVITATIONS

Rev. Floyd

See pages 6-7

Rev. Floyd

\*HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

\*BENEDICTION

BRINGING OF THE WORLD/TIME OF SILENCE

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LIGHT INTO THE

**Music notes** ~ Peter Frost

The Old Rugged Cross

This hymn, music and words, was written by George Bennard in 1913. Wildly popular, it is often considered the most popular and most published hymn of the twentieth century. At age 16, after his father died, George joined the ranks of the Salvation Army, later becoming ordained by the Methodist Episcopal Church.

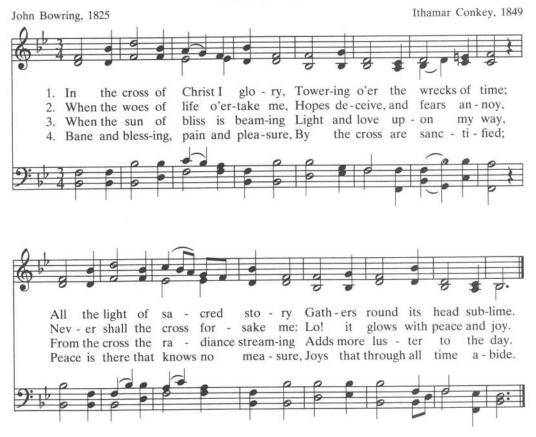
I found an interesting account of his inspiration for the hymn in *101 Hymn Stories* by Kenneth W. Osbeck, Kregel Publications.

An inspiration came to me one day in 1913. I composed the melody first. The words that I first wrote were imperfect. The words of the finished hymn were put into my heart in answer to my own need.

Personally, I find the hymn to be quite corny, and quite moving, at the same time. The song was sung many times by my father with his beautiful baritone. My brother's and sister sang it with me at our father's memorial service.

# In the Cross of Christ I Glory

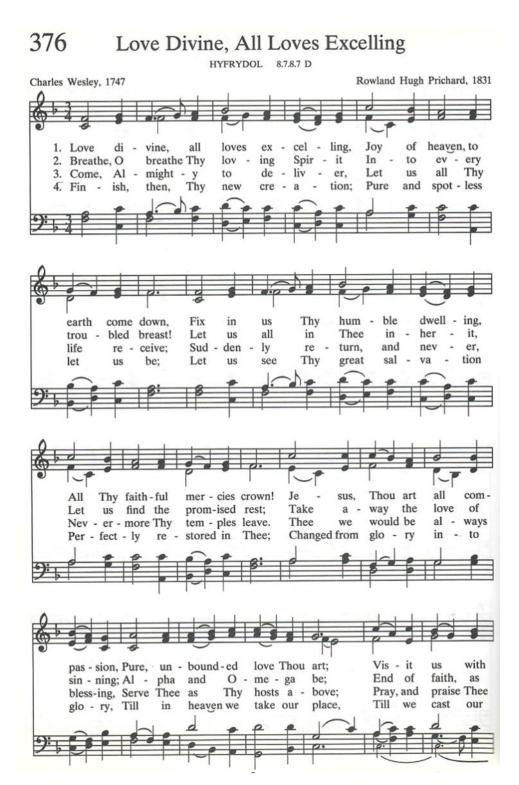
RATHBUN 8.7.8.7



POSTLUDE

Voluntary (Diapason), Anon., 18th century

84





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 Will Curtiss and Will Pohl, Livestream Technicians (413) 298-3137 | office@stockbridgeucc.org | stockbridgeucc.org All hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723107 100

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ROCKINGHAM LM

