



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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
*July 23, 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.

**\*\*Each week in worship we welcome people to share their prayers. If you like for a worship leader to read your prayer, please fill out a prayer slip and leave it in one of the marked baskets.\*\***

## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE

*Idyl* by Edvard Grieg, arr. by Benton Price

FRAMING WORDS

Pastor Brent Damrow

## **GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

\*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

*They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* vs. 1 & 2 See p. 4

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We've come to worship God,

**All: who loved us before we were yet born,**

One: who knows us even better than we know ourselves,

**All: whose presence never leaves us, and whose love for us never ceases.**

One: This is our God.

**All: Let's worship together!**

\*HYMN

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

See page 5

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE / WELCOME

Pastor Brent

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY

Psalm 139:1-4

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Fully Known and Fully Loved*

*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.**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE *Air* by J.S. Bach Bing Liu, *violin*; Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 13:24-30

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." '

SERMON

*Scattering*

Pastor Brent

\*HYMN

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

See page 6

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

*Saint Cecilia's Prayer*, by Peter Frost

Bing Liu, *violin*; Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

\*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

BLESSING OF THE VOLUNTEERS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER / PRAYER RESPONSE

## GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

\*INVITATIONS

Pastor Brent

\*SENDING TRUTH from *Worship Ways*, based on Psalm 139

One: As we leave this place, we know

**All: God will be with us wherever we go.**

One: At work or play, at home or on vacation, we know

**All: God will be with us wherever we go.**

One: Whether we're happy or sad, on our own, or with our friends, we know

**All: God will be with us wherever we go.**

One: So let's go with joy,

**All: because God goes with us!**

\*HYMN

*Savior, Again to Your Dear Name*

See page 7

\*BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE

Concerto no. 5 (Allegro Moderato), by Friedrich Seitz

Bing Liu, *violin*; Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

Verses 1 & 2

# 2223 They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



1. We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,
4. All praise to the Fa-ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord,  
we will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,  
we will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,  
and all praise to Christ Je-sus, God's on-ly Son,



and we pray that all u-ni-ty may one day be re-stored:  
and to-geth-er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
and we'll guard hu-man dig-ni-ty and save hu-man pride:  
and all praise to the Spir-it, who makes us one:

*Refrain*



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love. —

WORDS: Peter Scholtes (John 13:34-35; Eph. 4:4-6)

MUSIC: Peter Scholtes

ST. BRENDAN'S  
76.76.86 with Refrain

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## For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
 2 For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
 4 For the joy of hu-man love, bro-ther, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 5 For the Church which ev - er - more lift-eth ho - ly hands a - bove,

1 for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
 2 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 3 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link-ing sense to sound and sight,  
 4 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,  
 5 of - fering up on ev - ery shore thy pure sac - ri - fice of love,

*Refrain*

Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

6 For each perfect gift of thine  
 to the world so freely given,  
 faith and hope and love divine,  
 peace on earth and joy in heaven

**Refrain**

Words: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917), alt.  
 Music: *Lucerna Laudoniae*, David Evans (1874-1948)

77. 77 with Refrain

# 551 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7 D

Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

George Job Elvey, 1859

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home:  
 2. All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to God's praise to yield;  
 3. For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take the har - vest home;  
 4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To Thy fi - nal har - vest home;

All is safe - ly gath - ered in, Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;  
 Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown;  
 From each field shall in that day All of - fens - es purge a - way;  
 Gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin;

God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied:  
 First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear:  
 Give the an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,  
 There for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy pres - ence to a - bide:

Come to God's own tem - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home.  
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.  
 But the fruit - ful ears to store In God's gar - ner ev - er - more.  
 Come, with all Thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

Ps. 141:3-4a; 139:11-12; John 14:27

John Ellerton, 1866; alt.

1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise  
 2 Grant us your peace up - on our home-ward way;  
 3 Grant us your peace, as day turns in - to night;  
 4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life,

with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;  
 with you be - gan, with you shall end the day;  
 stay with us till the com - ing of the light;  
 our balm in sor - row, and our stay in strife;

We join to bless you ere our wor - ship cease,  
 Guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
 Keep safe all those who call up - on your name,  
 Then, when your voice shall bid our con - flict cease,

then, in the si - lence, wait your word of peace.  
 that in this house have called up - on your name.  
 for dark and light to you are both the same.  
 call us, O God, to your e - ter - nal peace.

*John Ellerton, a priest of the Church of England, wrote this hymn for a choral association festival. The final stanza was sung at his funeral. Ellerton edited and contributed to numerous hymnals.*

Tune: ELLERS 10.10.10.10.  
 Edward J. Hopkins, 1869

## Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

*Who was St. Cecilia?*

St. Cecilia (180 AD-230 AD) is remembered as the patron of musicians and poets. It is believed that "she sang in her heart, to the Lord." She is often illustrated in art playing the organ. Many compositions have been written to her memory.

### **Jonathan Edwards Needs Your Help!**

One of the major projects of the Capital Campaign is the renovation of the Jonathan Edwards Room. While the Trustees oversee the implementation of all these projects, they need a plan for the JE Room that reflects the needs of all who use it. We have collected input from all the program boards as well as outside groups who use the room. Now, we need suggestions from individuals in the congregation. A working group, to be appointed this summer by the Council, will sort all the ideas and come up with a plan for the Trustees to work with.

There are forms for your input in the JE. You may send them to Will in the church office or put them in a special box in the JE Room. These forms will also be sent out in the church weekly e-mail during July.

We need your response by July 30, the day we will have an in-person feedback conversation after worship. Plan to attend! ~ Ron Hanft

*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

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