

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

SUNG MORNING PRAYER

July 30, 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.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE *Pastorale*, by Edvard Grieg Peter Frost, organ

FRAMING WORDS Pastor Brent Damrow

INTRODUCING NEW MUSIC

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

INVOCATION *Come, Holy Spirit*

Come, Ho - ly Spir - it. _____ Come, Ho - ly Spir - it. _____
Come, Ho - ly Spir - it. _____ Come, Ho - ly

Ma - ra - na - tha!
Move a - mong us!
Breathe a - mong us!
Work a - mong us!

Spir - it. _____ Ma - ra -
Move a -
Breathe a -
Work a -

Come, O come. _____
na - tha!
mong us!
mong us!
mong us!

Come, O come. _____

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*HYMN

Verses 1 & 4

2060 God the Sculptor of the Mountains



1. God the sculp - tor of the moun - tains,
2. God the nui - sance to the Pha - raoh,
3. God the dress - er of the vine - yard,
4. God the un - ex - pect - ed in - fant,



God the mill - er of the sand,
God the cleav - er of the sea,
God the plant - er of the wheat,
God the calm, de - ter - mined youth,



God the jewel - er of the heav - ens,
God the pil - lar in the dark - ness,
God the reap - er of the har - vest,
God the ta - ble - turn - ing proph - et,



God the pot - ter of the land:
God the bea - con of the free:
God the source of all we eat:
God the re - sur - rect - ed truth:



You are womb of all cre - a - tion,
You are fount of all de - liv - 'rance,
You are host at ev - ery ta - ble,
You are pres - ent ev - ery mo - ment,



we are form - less; shape us now.
we are sight - less; lead us now.
we are hun - gry; feed us now.
we are search - ing; meet us now.

WORDS: John Thornburg
MUSIC: Amanda Husberg

JENNINGS-HOUSTON
87.87.87

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WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Christians, We Have Met to Worship* tune: Holy Manna

Christians, we have met to worship and adore our Holy God.

Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the Word?

All is vain unless the spirit of the Holy One comes down;

Christians, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Sung through once only.

249

Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

John 14:18-29

Ray Repp, 1967

Refrain

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system has a vocal line starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note D5, and a quarter note E5. The bass line starts with a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, then a half note D3, and a quarter note E3. The second system has a vocal line starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note D5, and a quarter note E5. The bass line starts with a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, then a half note D3, and a quarter note E3. The third system has a vocal line starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note D5, and a quarter note E5. The bass line starts with a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3, then a half note D3, and a quarter note E3. The score includes guitar chords: D, Em, G, D, F#m, Em, Gm, D, Em, G, D, F#m, Bm, Em, G, D. It also includes a first ending bracket with measures 1-2 and a second ending bracket with measure 3.

Peace I leave with you, my friends, sha-lom, my peace, in
all you do. Peace I leave with you, my friends. I give to
you so you can give to oth - ers, too.

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Singing

Sung Lords Prayer

Mark Miller

mp

Our God, in hea-ven, ho-ly is your name, your

reign come, your will done, on earth as in hea-ven.

slower

Give us to-day our dai-ly bread, and help us for-give, as we have been for-giv-en.

mf

In the time of tri-al lead us in-to light, for yours is the kin-dom, and the

f *mp*

po- wer, and the glo- ry, for- e - ver. Our God, in

hea- ven, ho-ly is your name, ho-ly is your name.

1. God sent his son, they called him Je - sus; He came to love,
 2. How sweet to hold a new-born ba - by, and feel the pride
 3. And then one day I'll cross the riv - er; I'll walk life's fin -

— heal, and for - give; He lived and died to buy my par - don.
 — and joy he gives; But great - er still the calm as - sur - ance,
 — al path with pain; And then as death gives way to vic - tory,

— An emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior lives.
 — This child can face un - cer - tain days be - cause he lives.
 — I'll see the lights of glo - ry and I'll know he lives.

Be - cause He lives I can face to - mor - row; Be - cause He lives

— all fear is gone; Be - cause I know He holds the

fu - ture, and life is worth the liv - ing just be - cause He lives.

(Time for silent confession.)

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*RESPONSE

Alleluia
Jerry Sinclair

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line contains the lyrics: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,". The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line contains the lyrics: "al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern as the first system.

READING

Mysteries, Yes by Mary Oliver

Truly, we live with mysteries too marvelous
to be understood.

How grass can be nourishing in the
mouths of the lambs.

How rivers and stones are forever
in allegiance with gravity
while we ourselves dream of rising.

How two hands touch and the bonds will
never be broken.

How people come, from delight or the
scars of damage,
to the comfort of a poem.

Let me keep my distance, always, from those
who think they have the answers.

Let me keep company always with those who say
"Look!" and laugh in astonishment,
and bow their heads.

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

210

ST. ANNE CM

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Attr. William Croft, 1708

1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
 2. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived its frame,
 3. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
 4. Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, Soon bears us all a - way;

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 We fly for - got - ten, as a dream Dies at the o - pening day.

REFLECTION

Pastor Brent

33

How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God! when I in awe-some won-der
 2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der,
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing,
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion

con-sid-er all the worlds thy hands have made,
 and hear the birds sing sweet-ly in the trees;
 sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
 and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.

I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing thun-der,
 when I look down from loft-y moun-tain gran-deur
 that on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly bear-ing,
 Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion,

thy power through-out the un-i-verse dis-played.
 and hear the brook, and feel the gen-tle breeze;
 he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
 and there pro-claim, my God, how great thou art!

WORDS and MUSIC: Stuart K. Hine, 1953, based on a Swedish folk melody and a poem by Carl Gustav Boberg, 1885

O STORE GUD
11 10.11 10 w. refrain

How Great Thou Art, refrain

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God to thee;

how great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Sav-ior God to thee; how great thou art, how great thou art!

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS *In Solitude*

Sing Verses 1 & 2 followed by Time of Silence

Sing Verses 3 & 4 followed by Lifting of Concerns

Sing Verse 5 followed by Lifting of Joys

521

In Solitude

Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 5:18-20

Ruth Duck, 1983

1 In sol - i - tude, in sol - i - tude, I come to God in prayer.
2 When-e'er the world is troub-ling me, and stress is all a - round,
3 In sea - sons of per - plex - i - ty, in times of deep de - spair,
4 And when my heart is bur - dened down with cares for those I love,
5 With psalms and hymns and songs of praise be - fore my God I'll come,

In si - lence and sim - plic - i - ty, my spir - it blos - soms there.
I seek the pres - ence of my God, and heal - ing light is found.
I light a can - dle in the night and turn to God in prayer.
too deep for words, with groans and sighs, de - scends the ho - ly dove.
till death it - self is past and gone, and I ar - rive at home.

Ruth Duck has commented that "these words were inspired by a pentatonic melody which came to me as I taught myself to play the mandolin." They are an expression of her "deep-rooted southern spirituality."

Tune: LAND OF REST C.M.
Traditional United States melody
Harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938

PRAYER RESPONSE

“Kyrie”

John Bell, The Iona Community

One: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. All: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. One: Chri - ste e - lei - son.

All: Chri - ste e - lei - son. One: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

All: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Let the Beauty of the Lord be Upon Us*, Irwin Fischer Rich Geiler

*DOXOLOGY Laast Uns Erfruen

**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 *Gloria (Iona) - sung twice*

Glo - ri - a, Glo - ri - a, Glo - ri - a,

in ex - cel - sis De - o.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

*HYMN

"Parting Hand"

Words by John Blain, Music Arr. William Walker, *Sacred Harp*

1. My Christ-ian friends in bonds of love, whose hearts in sweet-est
2. How sweet the hours have passed a-way since we have met to
3. How oft I've seen your flow-ing tears, And hear you tell your

un-ion join, Your friend-ship's like a draw-ing band, yet
sing and pray. How loath we are to leave the place where
hopes and fears! Your hearts with love were seen to flame, Which

we must take the part-ing hand. Your com-p'ny's sweet, your
Je-sus shows His smil-ing face. O could I stay with
makes me hope we'll meet a-gain. Your com-p'ny's sweet, your

un-ion dear, Your words de-light-ful to my ear, Yet
friends so kind, How would it cheer my droop-ing mind! But
un-ion dear, Your words de-light-ful to my ear, Yet

when I see that we must part, You draw like cords a-round my heart.
du-ty makes me un-der-stand That we must take the part-ing hand.
when I see that we must part, You draw like cords a-round my heart.

INVITATIONS



SUNG POSTLUDE

“Thuma mina”
South Africa

Thu - ma mi - na,
 Thu - ma mi - na, thu - ma mi - na, thu - ma
 Je - sus, send me Je - sus send me
 fill lead. fill lead
 Send me out. Fill me now. Lead me on.
 mi - na, so - mand - la. Send me, Fill me, Lead me,
 Je - sus, send me out. now. on.

Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

The offertory solo that Rich Geiler has chosen to sing this morning was composed by Irwin Fischer (July 5, 1903 – May 7, 1977) Irwin Fischer was an American organist and composer. He spent most of his career as Dean of Faculty of the American Conservatory of Music. ACM was founded in Chicago in 1886 and had to close its doors in 1991 due to bankruptcy. Fischer was also the organist for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for 22 years. Additionally he worked as a recording artist, author, and radio performer.

Announcements

The JE Room Needs Your Help

One of the major projects of the Capital Campaign is the renovation of the Jonathan Edwards Room. This is our chance to create a space that fits everyone's needs. 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 by the Council, will sort all the ideas and come up with a plan for the Trustees to work with. After worship today please join an in-person feedback conversation. Thanks! ~ Ron Hanft

Rally Day September 10

As summer winds down, we gather for a special Sunday. This church calls it Rally Day – other UCC churches call it Re-Covenanting Sunday. Both names are helpful for they describe what is a joyful day to reconnect in relationship and faith.

The Choir will be up in the loft, Sunday programs for children resume, adult studies launch, and more. It is a day where we share the adventures of our Sunday even as we set off on new adventures together as a church.

Following worship, there will be a special fellowship hour planned for the front lawn (weather permitting). Mark your calendars, bring your friends and family, come and see!

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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