



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

August 6, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

Notes:

- ◇ This week we draw heavily from the Iona Community and their wonderful “Wee Worship Book.” Iona is an ecumenical worship community in Scotland bringing new life to an ancient Monastery.
- ◇ On communion Sundays, we invite our children to begin in Sunday School so that they can return to the sanctuary for communion.
- ◇ 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 the marked basket at either entrance to the Sanctuary.
- ◇ For those **worshipping at home**: you are also invited to text the names of those attending to 413-644-6435 that we might welcome you.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Peter Frost

PRELUDE

Adagio, by Tommaso Albinoni

FRAMING WORDS

Pastor Brent Damrow

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT

Meditation (Anon)

GATHERING PRAYER

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! _____ Come, O come.
 mong us! _____
 mong us! _____
 mong us! _____

*HYMN

Gather Us In, verses 1 & 2

See page 11

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from *A Wee Worship Book*

One: Gather us in, the lost and lonely,
 The broken and breaking, the tired and the aching
 Who long for the nourishment
 Found at your feast.

All: Gather us in,

One: the done and the doubting,
 The wishing and wondering, the puzzled and pondering
 Who long for the company found at your feast.

All: Gather us in,

One: the proud and pretentious,
 The sure and superior,
 The never inferior,
 Who long for the levelling
 Found at your feast.

continued

All: Gather us in,

One: the bright and the bustling,
The stirrers, the shakers, the kind laughter makers
Who long for the deeper joys found at your feast.

All: Gather us in

One: from corner or limelight, from mansion or campsite,
From fears and obsession, from tears and depression,
From untold excesses, from treasured successes,
To meet, to eat, be given a seat,
Be joined to the vine, be offered new wine,
Become like the least, be found at the feast.

All: Gather us in!

*HYMN

Gather Us In, verses 3 & 4

See page 11

WELCOME

Pastor Brent

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RESTORATION (from the Iona Community)

One: We gather in God's name. We claim Christ's promised presence. My siblings in Christ, not out of dread and fear but believing that God is faithful to forgive, let us rid ourselves of what we need to carry no longer.

All: Eternal God, maker of the skies above, lowly Christ, born amidst the growing earth, Spirit of life, wind over the flowing waters, in earth and sky, you are there.

One: O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns, soul behind all souls, in everything we touch, in everyone we meet, your presence is around us, and we give you thanks.

All: But when we have not touched but trampled you in creation, when we have not met but missed you in one another when we have not received but rejected you in the poor, forgive us, and hear now our plea for mercy.

One: Hear now the words of Jesus for all who are truly sorry and seek to renew their lives: your sins are forgiven. Go in peace; come and follow me.

All: Lead us now, O God, to acknowledge your costly generosity by living as forgiven people, until heaven and earth rejoice and the whole earth cries Glory! Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Sometimes I feel like a Motherless Child* (Spiritual)
arr. by Peter Frost

*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

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

PRAYER RESPONSE *Intermezzo* by Gerald Peterson

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING *Matthew 14:13-21*

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

REFLECTION *Stories* Pastor Brent

Matt. 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44

Mary A. Lathbury, 1877; alt.

1 Break now the bread of life, Sav - ior, to me, as you once
 2 Bless now the truth, dear Christ, to me, to me, as you once

broke the loaves be - side the sea; Be - yond the sa - cred page
 blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee; Then shall all bond-age cease,

I seek you, Lord; my spir-it yearns for you, O Liv - ing Word.
 all shack-les fall, and I shall find my peace, my all in all.

Mary Lathbury, "poet laureate of Chautauqua," wrote her prayer hymn to enrich the lives of those gathered for summer study at the lakeside conferences near Jamestown, New York. The tune was written for it by the chorus director of Chautauqua that same season.

Tune: BREAD OF LIFE 6.4.6.4.D.
 William F. Sherwin, 1877

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SHARING THE STORY from *A Wee Worship Book*

Celebrant: What we do here, we do

In imitation of what Christ first did.
To his followers in every age,
Jesus gave an example and command.
Rooted in the experience he shared With his disciples
In an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

**All: On the night on which he was betrayed,
And as they were sitting at a meal,
Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it.
He gave it to the disciples saying,
"This is my body. It is broken for you.
Do this to remember me."
Later, after they had eaten,
He took a cup of wine and said,
"This cup is the new relationship with God
Made possible because of my death.
Drink this all of you, to remember me."**

Celebrant: So now we do as Jesus did.

We take this bread and this wine,
The produce of the earth and fruit of human labor.
In these, Jesus has promised to be present;
Through these, Christ can make us whole.

BRINGING AND BLESSING THE FEAST

502 Bread of the World in Mercy Broken

RENDEZ À DIEU 9.8.9.8 D

Reginald Heber (1783–1826)

As in *Hymns Written and Adapted*, 1827

Louis Bourgeois, 1543; rev. 1551

Bread of the world in mer-cy bro - ken, Wine of the soul in mer - cy shed,

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The accompaniment starts with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and C4. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

By whom the words of life were spo - ken, And in whose death our sins are dead:

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The treble staff continues with quarter notes D5, E5, F#5, and G5. The bass staff continues with quarter notes D3, E3, F#3, and G3. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

Look on the heart by sor-row bro - ken, Look on the tears by sin - ners shed;

The third system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff continues with quarter notes A5, B5, and C6. The bass staff continues with quarter notes A3, B3, and C4. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

And be Thy feast to us the to - ken That by Thy grace our souls are fed.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece. The treble staff ends with a double bar line. The bass staff continues with quarter notes D3, E3, F#3, and G3. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

SHARING THE MEAL

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray.

In gratitude, in deep gratitude,
For this moment, this meal, these people,
We give ourselves to you.

Take us out to live as changed people
Because we have shared the Living Bread
And cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us,
Enable much by us. Encourage many through us.
So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth
And citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen

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 and the Pop-Up Pantry in baskets at each exit.

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

Christmas in August, Cindy Brown

Planned Giving, Tom Ruffing

*SENDING CHARGE

One: The cross,

All: We shall take it;

One: the bread,

All: We shall break it;

One: the pain,

All: We shall bear it;

One: the joy,

All: We shall share it;

One: the Gospel,

All: We shall live it;

One: the love,

All: We shall give it;

One: the light,

All: We shall cherish it;

One: the darkness,

All: God shall perish it.

347

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

C F G Dm G C G

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,

C F G Dm7 C G C

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

Refrain (first time p, second time f)

C C7 F Dm G C F C

Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

Tune: LINSTEAD L.M. with refrain
 Jamaican folk song
 Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975

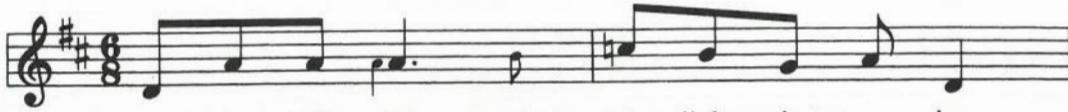


POSTLUDE

Fugue in D, by William Selby

Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

As I began to imagine how I wanted to arrange one of my favorite spirituals, *Sometimes I feel like a Motherless Child*; I thought about how much suffering bore this beautiful and haunting melody. I chose to draw on my professional acting training and work experience which teaches us to use our own personal experiences to slip inside a character. Using two compositional techniques I worked to bring out the pain and suffering of an enslaved person as I imagined it through my own childhood story. Having witnessed and felt the tremendous and enduring struggle my mother went through when I was young, this felt like it might work. You will hear that I used a predominance of dissonant clustering chords throughout, hoping to still bring out the beauty of the melody. The second technique I used was a series of accents (stressed notes) to try and bring out the suffering and intense physical labor the enslaved people endured. If you are not adverse towards dissonance, you may enjoy this setting.



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,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name. _____
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song. _____
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true. _____
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone. _____

Announcements

The Service League is having a Summer Fair on Saturday, August 12. We welcome donations of baked goods, fresh produce, and cut flowers. We are asking for food to be individually wrapped so it's easy to grab and eat on the go - cookies, muffins, brownies, bars, etc. No pies or cakes please. Goodies can be dropped off at the Church from 9:45-10:00 a.m. that morning.

Wednesday Dinners Continue

Eating together nourishes our bodies and our souls. All are welcome to dinner on August 9 at the church. The food will be ready at 5:30 p.m. and served until 7:30 or so. People may arrive whenever is best for them and stay as long as they like. The food will be simple, nut-free, and include a vegetarian and gluten-free option.

No one is obligated to bring anything. Those who wish to contribute, help cook, or bring a dish can. But don't worry about obligations; simply come and be part of the meal.

From the Scholarship Committee

Calling all students who are matriculated in undergraduate or graduate programs: If you're a church member, or child of a church member or employee, please apply for a scholarship by August 30. All you have to do is send an email to Will in the office or me (mhornick@gmail.com) specifying where you are enrolled and what degree you're pursuing. We hope to hear from you! ~ Margaret Hornick

Rally Day September 10

As summer winds down, we gather for a special Sunday: Rally Day, 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

(413) 298-3137 | office@stockbridgeucc.org | stockbridgeucc.org

All hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723107