



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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

*August 13, 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 the marked basket at either entrance to the Sanctuary.\*\***

**PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

**GATHERING**      *All Night, All Day*      Quintessential  
Traditional spiritual as sung by the Swan Silvertones

**PRELUDE**      *Someday (Gonna Reach My Heavenly Home)*  
Traditional spiritual as sung by the Patterson Singers

Quintessential:      Jay Wise and Al Thorp, tenors; John Miner and Jim  
McMenamy, baritones; David Anderegg, bass

**FRAMING WORDS**      Rev. Janet McKinstry

**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

**INTROIT**      *In the Morning*      Traditional spiritual  
Arr. Charles Ives 1929/ D. Anderegg 2011

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Matthew 14:22-33) Carl Bradford

One: O God who is greater than the most powerful forces in this world, enable us to be still and know that You are God.

**All: O Lord who answers out of the whirlwind of everyday life, breathe in us Your Holy Spirit to strengthen, comfort, and guide us in the midst of the storm.**

One: O still, small voice, speak to us this hour that we might become makers of Your peace in our homes, in our communities, in our world. We pray all this in the name of the One who calmed the raging sea.

**All: We gather together to worship God, who comes to us when we least expect it, who calls us out of the safety of our ordered lives and invites us to join Him in the adventure of faith. Let's worship God together!**

\*HYMN *O Sing a Song of Bethlehem* See page 5

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

WELCOME

Rev. McKinstry

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY

TIME WITH CHILDREN

*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.**

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Kings 19:9-13

Jeremy Ridenour

At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

REFLECTION

*The Eye of the Storm*

Rev. McKinstry

\*HYMN

*In Solitude*

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

*When My Spirit is Faint* (Psalm 142)

Music by David Anderegg 2005

### \*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

### BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

### PRAYER RESPONSE

*Love Lifted Me*

## GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

### \*INVITATIONS

Rev. McKinstry

### \*HYMN

*You Walk along Our Shoreline*

See page 7

### \*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION (based on Matthew 14:22-33)

One: Friends, Jesus calls us to step out on to the water with him, to leave the safety of our boats, and to walk toward Him in faith, joining Him in the work He is already doing in our world. And when the wind and waves get high and threaten to overwhelm us, we remember His words:

*"Don't be afraid. Take courage. I am here."*

**All: So let's go with faith, to follow where Jesus leads, confident that His love and presence go with us.**



### POSTLUDE

*Straight Street*, as sung by the Pilgrim Travelers

# O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

51

Louis F. Benson, 1899; alt.

Luke 2:8–20, 25–32; Matt. 14:22–33; Mark 4:39; 6:47–52;  
John 6:16–21; Acts 5:30–31; 10:39–43

1 O sing a song of Beth-le-hem, of shep-herds watch-ing there,  
2 O sing a song of Naz-a-reth, of days of joy and sun,  
3 O sing a song of Gal-i-lee, of lake and woods and hill,  
4 O sing a song of Cal-va-ry, its glo-ry and dis-may,

and of the news that came to them from an-gels in the air:  
O sing of fra-grant flo-wers' breath, and of the sin-less One:  
of One who walked up-on the sea and bade its waves be still:  
of One who hung up-on the tree, and took our sins a-way:

The light that shone on Beth-le-hem fills all the world to-day;  
For now the flowers of Naz-a-reth in ev-ery heart may grow;  
For though, like waves on Gal-i-lee, rough seas of trou-ble roll,  
For Christ who died on Cal-va-ry is ris-en from the grave;

of Je-sus' birth and peace on earth the an-gels sing al-way.  
now spreads the fame of Je-sus' name on all the winds that blow.  
when faith has heard the Sav-ior's word, falls peace up-on the soul.  
God's sov-ereign Child, who rec-on-ciled, is might-y now to save.

Using four biblical locations important to the story, the American hymnwriter Louis F. Benson has summarized the life of Jesus and related it to the present. Benson edited several Presbyterian hymnals and wrote a number of books on hymnody.

Tune: KINGSFOLD C.M.D.  
Traditional English melody  
Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

*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

The banner in the choir loft was designed for a 1992 event here at the church, sponsored by Berkshire Institute of Theology and the Arts. That summer Yo-Yo Ma was performing the six Bach Cello Suites at Tanglewood. He joined theologian Jaroslav Pelikan here for a conversation on Bach's spirituality, punctuated with excerpts from the Cello Suites. The banner is many layers of nylon tulle, backed by sheer silk. I listened to the many-layered voices of Bach cantatas while configuring the abstract imagery to visually mimic the steady bass notes, the interwoven fugue motifs and the lightness of joyful, overlapping melodies. ~ Terry Wise

# You Walk along Our Shoreline

504

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1984; alt.

Mark 1:16-20; John 17:20-26

1 You walk a - long our shore - line where land meets un - known sea.  
2 You call us, Christ, to gath - er the peo - ple of the earth.  
3 We cast our net, O Je - sus; we seek your prom - ised reign;

We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me. And  
We can - not fish for on - ly those lives we think have worth. We  
We work for love and jus - tice; we learn to hope through pain. You

if you still will fol - low through storm and wave and shoal,  
spread your net of gos - pel a - cross the wa - ter's face,  
call on us to gath - er God's daugh - ters and God's sons,

Then I will make you fish - ers, but of the hu - man soul."  
Our boat a com - mon shel - ter for all found by your grace.  
To let your judg - ment heal us so that all may be one.

Hymnwriter Sylvia Dunstan credited an article by Michael Steinhauser in the March 1984 issue of Practice of Ministry in Canada entitled "Fishing: A Metaphor for Ministry" as the inspiration for her text. Dunstan was an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada.

Tune: SALLEY GARDENS 7.6.7.6.D.  
Traditional Irish melody  
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

## Music Notes ~ David Anderegg

Our musical selections today are a nod to the African-American gospel groups of the 1940s and 50s. These hugely popular groups, including the Swan Silvertones, the Pilgrim Travelers, and the Patterson Singers, traveled the African-American gospel circuit and recorded widely. They also influenced later singers who crossed over to pop music, including Ray Charles and Lou Rawls (who sang for a time with the Pilgrim Travelers).

The setting of “Give Me Jesus” is our transcription of Charles Ives’ setting for voice and piano. Most Ives compositions are jangling and polytonal; this one is simple and straightforward. It is said that Ives heard it sung a cappella by an African-American domestic worker and wrote it down on the spot. It is the last song he ever put to paper.

“When My Spirit is Faint” is an unabridged version of Psalm 142 that bears the superscription “A Maskil of David. When he was in the cave.” Our old friend Max Stackhouse explained the term “maskil” in this case as a poem that starts in fearful supplication (“no man cares for me”) and ends in confident faith (“the righteous will surround me.”)

We began singing together 20 years ago. Our first public outing was at the Stockbridge Memorial Day celebration, and our second was here on June 29, 2003. On that day, we sang “Love Lifted Me,” as we do today. Over the years we have sung for lots of Sunday worship services, Easter sunrises, weddings, and funerals here; we also gave the world premieres of our operas, *What Owls Do* and *The Beasts Here*. We are so grateful for the warm embrace we have received from this congregation over two decades.

*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

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