



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

October 22, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

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.

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.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Peter Frost

PRELUDE

Musette, by G. F. Handel

FRAMING WORDS

Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT / TIME OF GRATITUDE

*SONG

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna vss. 1& 3

1 "Hosanna, loud hosanna,"
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

3 "Hosanna in the highest!"
That ancient song is ours,
We hail our great Redeemer
and sing with all our powers;
"Hosanna, Christ, we praise you
with heart and life and voice.
Hosanna! In your presence
forever we'll rejoice!"

*CALL TO WORSHIP adapted from Thom Shuman Ronnie Cunningham

One: When we stand at the edge of fear and worry,

All: God invites us to step into the waters of faith and trust.

One: When we stand at the edge of the world's pain and need,

All: Jesus invites us to step into the land of humble service.

One: When we stand at the edge of our hunger and thirst:

All: the Spirit invites us to sit at the Table of grace

One: When we stand at the edge of God's presence,

All: God holds out a hand and beckons us to draw near.

One: God is hear as we God's people meet.

All: Let us enter into the presence of God with joy, hope, and love.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.

Children may go to music / story time.

INTROIT *The Ashgrove*, arr. by Allured

Bell Choir

CONTEMPORARY READING

David Anderegg

And then you A prayer by Walter Brueggemann

We arrange our lives as best we can,

to keep your holiness at bay,

with our pieties,

our doctrines

our liturgies,

our moralities,

our secret ideologies,

Safe, virtuous, settled.

continued

And then you –
 you and your dreams, you and your visions,
 you and your purposes, you and your commands,
 you and our neighbors.
We find your holiness not at bay,
 but probing, pervading,
 insisting, demanding.
And we yield, sometimes gladly,
 sometimes resentfully,
 sometimes late... or soon
We yield because you, beyond us, are our God.
 We are your creatures met by your holiness,
 by your holiness made our true selves.
And we yield. Amen.

*HYMN

God is Here! vss. 1 & 4

See page 5

WELCOME

Pastor Brent

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5

Carl Bradford

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, 'Look, we are your bone and flesh. For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The Lord said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel.' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah for seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah for thirty-three years.

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the Lord of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

SERMON *The Rest of the Story* Pastor Brent
*HYMN *Take My Life, God, Let it Be* See page 6

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY *Simple Gifts*, arr. by Fisher Bell Choir

*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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Elisabeth Bellows

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS / PRAYER RESPONSE

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS Pastor Brent

SENDING PRAYER Ronnie Cunningham

Holy one of Israel, King David dared to return the Ark of the Covenant to Israel bringing your presence into the holy Temple. Give us that same courage to draw near to you in humility, courage, faith, hope, and love.
Amen

*HYMN *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* vss. 1, 2, & 5 See page 7

*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent



POSTLUDE *Spirit Song*, by John Wimber; arr. by Douglas Wagner

Fred Pratt Green, 1979; rev. 1988

Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1941

Verses
1 & 4

1. God is here! As we Your peo-ple Meet to of - fer
 2. Here are sym-bols to re - mind us Of our life - long
 3. Here our chil-dren find a wel-come In the Shep - herd's
 4. Lord of all, of church and king-dom, In an age of

praise and prayer, May we find in ful - ler mea-sure What it
 need of grace; Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit; Here the
 flock and fold, Here, as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus -
 change and doubt Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, Help us

is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a - round us,
 cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es - ty of preach - ing,
 tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant
 work Your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion,

All our var - ied skills and arts Wait the com - ing
 Here in si - lence, as in speech, Here, in mean - ness
 Seek in wor - ship to ex - plore What it means in
 All we have to give, re - ceive: We, who can - not

of the Spir - it In - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 dai - ly liv - ing To be - lieve and to a - dore.
 live with - out You, We a - dore You! We be - lieve!

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

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Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1

1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.

Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.

Justin H. Knecht, 1797

Alternate tune: HENDON

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

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.

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Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 139

Verses
1, 2, & 5

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might-y, the King of cre - a -
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign -
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de - fend
 4. Praise to the Lord, who doth nour-ish thy life and re - store
 5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -
 ing bears thee on ea - gle's wings, e'er in his keep - ing main -
 thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at -
 thee, fit - ting thee well for the tasks that are ev - er be -
 him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be -

va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his tem - ple draw
 tain - ing. God's care en - folds all, whose true good he up -
 tend thee. Pon - der a - new what the Al - might-y can
 fore thee. Then to thy need God as a moth - er doth
 fore him! Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a -

near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 holds. Hast thou not known his sus - tain - ing?
 do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
 speed, spread - ing the wings of grace o'er thee.
 gain; glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him.

WORDS: Joachim Neander, 1680; sts. 1, 3, 5 trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863
 st. 2 by S. Paul Schilling, 1986; st. 4 by Rupert E. Davies, 1983 (Ps. 103:1-6; 150)
 MUSIC: *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, 1665; harm. by William Sterndale Bennett, 1864

LOBE DEN HERREN
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News and Announcements

Music on Main

Saturday, November 4 at 3:00pm
The concert series continues! Muneko Otani, violin; Ronald Feldman, cello; and Hui-Mei Lin, piano, will present works by Lili Boulanger, Beethoven, and Brahms. Suggested donation: \$25. More information, including a way to make your reservation, on the church website.

God in the Wilderness: *A monthly Walking Pilgrimage*

Wednesday, Nov 8 5:00pm (every second Wednesday thereafter)
We seek refuge in the wilderness to refuel our life in faith. God in the Wilderness, a monthly pilgrimage, will encourage us to acknowledge the power of direct relationship with God while walking Stockbridge's paths. Through fellowship, spiritual/religious context paired to the liturgical season, prayer and stated intention at the beginning and ending of each walk, participants will be supported to deepen their relationship with their faith, their church, and

themselves. Facilitated by Margo Davis, MSW, LICSW. Questions? margobradleydavis@gmail.com

Youth Group

Corn Maze and Treasure Hunt - on November 5 from 11:30 - 2:00 pm. We'll eat lunch and have a brief gathering activity at church before heading over to Taft Farms. We've allowed a little extra time after the maize maze and treasure hunt for a short hike on the farm. We'll finish by taste-testing Taft's renowned cider doughnuts. Youth leaders expect to have enough room in their cars to transport all participants to Taft Farms, but parents/guardians are welcome to take them there. Pick up at Taft Farms will be at two o'clock. Transportation back to the church should be available for parents who wish to pick their child up there (at 2:15pm). RSVP to Terry Wise wises@bcn.net and let her know your transportation preferences. Bring a friend!

Music Notes ~ Mary Jo Erickson Connor

The Ashgrove is a Welsh folk melody and is sung as a beautiful church hymn as well as a favorite camp song with alternate lyrics. *Simple Gifts* is an American Shaker melody. One set of lyrics speaks of the gift to be simple, and the gift to be free, another is popularly known as *Lord of the Dance*. *Spirit Song* was composed by John Wimber. The lyrics are based on John 7:13, "Whoever believes in Me will have streams of living water flowing from within."