



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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

*October 29, 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

*Arioso* by J. S. Bach

FRAMING WORDS

Pastor Brent Damrow

**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT / TIME OF GRATITUDE

\*SONG

*Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?* vss. 1 - 3

See page 5

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Drea Pecor

Based on Mark 10:35-45, from the UCC Worship Ways website

One: We may come here for a glimpse of glory,

**All: But Jesus asks us: "Can you drink the cup that I drink?"**

One: The cup of Jesus' own life: struggle and joy; suffering and hope.

Fullness of life! We may come here to get close to Jesus,

**All: And Jesus asks us: "Can you be baptized with my baptism?"**

continued

One: Baptized into the reign of God,  
where the Spirit breaks down barriers among all people  
and creates new relationships! We may come here for honor or fame,

**All: But Jesus challenges us: "To become great you must serve!"**

One: Why are we here?

**All: To drink the cup of fullness of life;  
To immerse ourselves in Jesus' struggle for justice and peace;  
To learn how to serve so that the world may be healed.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

WELCOME

Pastor Brent

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.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

A LITANY OF BAPTISM

Miles Wheat

One: We are gathered to present LeeAnn Fleming to the church and to  
dedicate her to God. What can we affirm about her?

**Many: That she is a child of God and made in the image of God.**

One: As she grows in our congregation, how will she know that she is a  
child of God, made in God's image?

**Many: We will give her our love and include her in the life and ministry of  
this congregation.**

One: How will she learn of the Christian faith?

**Many: Together we will remember Abraham, the father of our faith; Sarah,  
the mother of Isaac; Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of  
bondage; Ruth's example of faithfulness; Mary and Joseph's**

**openness to mystery; the Savior, Jesus, and the history of the church as the people of God.**

One: And what, in turn, will we expect of her?

Many: **We look forward to sitting with her at the Lord's Table, sharing with her the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with her in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.**

## QUESTIONS FOR LEEANN AND THE CONGREGATION

### PRAYER/ ACT OF BAPTISM

### CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Miles Wheat

### \*HYMN

*Come Here By the Waters*

See page 6

text: Richard Floyd, tune: W.J. Kirkpatrick

Children may go to music / story time.

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29

David Anderegg

### SERMON

*Of Kings and Servants*

Pastor Brent

### \*HYMN

*Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?* vss. 4 - 6

See page 5

## 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

*Be Thou My Vision*, arr. by Peter Frost

### \*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

Frank Russell

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

PRAYER RESPONSE

*O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee,*  
Gladden/Smith (Maryton)

## GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

Pastor Brent

SENDING CHARGE

Drea Pecor

Mighty God, your servant Rehoboam divided your kingdom with his desire for power yet you remained faithful to all in love. Show us your presence in conflict, lead us in your way of service, bless us with your grace. Amen

\*HYMN

*Children of God*

See page 7

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent



POSTLUDE

*Toccatà in C*, by J. Pachelbel

As you leave today:

- ◇ Please greet LeeAnn who will be just inside the JE Room.
- ◇ Our children are dressed in costume to Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF; you're invited to contribute as you are able.

Next week we will observe All Saints Sunday. There will be special opportunities in the sanctuary for acts of remembrance.

# Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

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Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?  
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;  
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;  
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.  
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.  
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.  
Richard Gillard, 1977  
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

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.

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

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# Come Here By the Waters

1. Come here by the wa - ters, come bring us your child. We'll call on God's  
 2. Your prom - ise en - dur - ing will fol - low her days, and lead to a  
 3. Bless us with your pre - sence, Your word and your pow'r that we might be  
 4. We praise you and thank you for all you pro - vide, for bless - ings and

spir - it so lov - ing and wild. These peo - ple and par - ents will  
 life filled with ser - vice and praise. You'll bless her and keep her and  
 faith - ful in ev - 'ry new hour. Let church be a place that is  
 gra - ces that reach far and wide. Praise Fa - ther praise Son, and the

speaking their firm vow. This child full of bless - ings be - longs to God now.  
 al - ways be there, through life's ma - ny chan - ges you'll watch her with care.  
 brim - ming with love, and bless these dear child - ren with grace from a - bove.  
 Spir - it di - vine, both now and for - ev - er and far be - yond time.

Text: Richard Floyd, 2015

Tune: William J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)



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CRADLE SONG

[www.hymnary.org/text/away\\_in\\_a\\_manger\\_no\\_crib\\_for\\_a\\_bed](http://www.hymnary.org/text/away_in_a_manger_no_crib_for_a_bed)

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Eph. 4:31-5:2

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1848; alt.

1 Chil - dren of God, lift hearts to one an - oth - er;  
 2 For God whom Je - sus loved has tru - ly spo - ken:  
 3 Fol - low with rev - erent steps the great ex - am - ple  
 4 Then shall all shack - les fall; the storm-y clan - gor

where pit - y dwells, the peace of God is there;  
 the ho - lier wor - ship which Christ deigns to bless  
 of Christ whose ho - ly work was do - ing good;  
 of wild war mu - sic o'er the earth shall cease;

To wor - ship right - ly is to love each oth - er,  
 Re - stores the lost, and binds the spir - it bro - ken,  
 So shall the wide earth seem a ho - ly tem - ple,  
 Love shall tread out the bale - ful fire of an - ger,

each smile a hymn, each kind - ly deed a prayer.  
 and feeds the wid - ow and the par - ent - less.  
 each lov - ing life a psalm of grat - i - tude.  
 and in its ash - es plant the tree of peace.

*Of Puritan ancestry and Quaker parentage, the American poet and journalist John Greenleaf Whittier was a strong supporter of the abolition of slavery. This hymn is comprised of the final stanzas of "Worship," a poem expressing his views on the life of faith.*

Tune: WELWYN 11.10.11.10.  
 Alfred Scott-Gatty, 1900

*The New Century Hymnal (1995)*

## News and Announcements

### Health and Mutual Care

As we approach fall and winter, we are providing a space in the west side of the sanctuary where masking is required.

Ask a Deacon for assistance or contact the church office with questions.

### 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

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 walking pilgrimage, will encourage us to acknowledge the power of direct relationship with God while walking Stockbridge's paths. Through fellowship

and spiritual/religious context paired to the liturgical season, participants will deepen their relationship with their faith, their church, and themselves. Facilitated by Margo Davis, MSW, LICSW.

Questions?

[margobradleydavis@gmail.com](mailto:margobradleydavis@gmail.com)

### Youth Group

Corn Maze and Treasure Hunt - on November 5 from 11:30 - 2:00 pm. We'll eat lunch at church before heading over to Taft Farms. We've allowed 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 at 2:00.

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](mailto:wises@bcn.net) and let her know your transportation preferences. Bring a friend!

### Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

*Be Thou My Vision*, an old Irish ballad, was translated from the Gaelic by Mary E. Byrne in 1905. It has always been one of my favorite hymns. My first music directorship at the Scarborough Presbyterian Church in Scarborough, New York began in 1990. I inherited a choir of eight which included five sopranos. Needless to say, though I hadn't composed or arranged before then, it was time to start. One of my first attempts was setting this hymn for two voices. The descant on the third verse for this 2023 arrangement was borrowed from that duet.