



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

November 5, 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.

Children are welcome to begin with music and storytelling in the classroom. Communion will be done through intinction today. If you would prefer to take communion in your pew, please pick up your communion elements on your way into the sanctuary.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Peter Frost

PRELUDE

Elegy by Flor Peeters

FRAMING WORDS

Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT / TIME OF GRATITUDE

INTROIT

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal, Southern Harmony,
arr. by Alice Parker

Reflections by Mechthild of Magdeburg

The day of my spiritual awakening was the day I saw and knew I saw all things in God and God in all things.

A Light of utmost splendor glows on the eyes of my soul. Therein have I seen the inexpressible ordering of all things, and recognized God's unspeakable glory -- that incomprehensible wonder -- the tender caress between God and the soul...the unmingled joy of union, the living love of eternity as it now is and evermore shall be.

Mechthild (or Mechtild, Matilda, Matelda) of Magdeburg (c. 1207 – c. 1282/1294), a Beguine, was a Christian medieval mystic, whose book Das fließende Licht der Gottheit (The Flowing Light of Divinity) is a compendium of visions, prayers, dialogues and mystical accounts. She was the first mystic to write in Low German.” (Information from Wikipedia) Pastor Brent encountered her thinking first through a reference to her in Richard Rohr’s The Universal Christ.

*HYMN

For All the Saints

See page 5

*CALL TO WORSHIP from Seasons Online

Cindy Brown

One: In all our weakness and strength,
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,

All: we come to be your people, O God.

One: Strong in faith and eager with questions,
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,

All: we come to be your people, O God.

One: Filled with saintly determination
yet mindful of our human limitations,

All: we come to be your people, O God.

One: Made strong in your endless love for us,
we know ourselves to be yours and

All: we come to be your people, O God.

One: May we truly become your people today.

All: Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE / WELCOME

Pastor Brent

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

For today, if you wish to lift a prayer, you must write it on a slip. only
They will be read as written. During the prayers, people will be invited to
lift the names of those they are remembering.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *At the River* adapted by Aaron Copland,
choral arr. by R. Wilding-White

*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 *Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal*

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Hebrews 12:1-2, 13:1-6 David Anderegg

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay
aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with
perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and
perfector of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured
the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the
throne of God.

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by
doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who
are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being
tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in
honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge
fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be
content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake
you.' So we can say with confidence,
'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?'

SERMON *Candles and Light* Pastor Brent
*HYMN *Come, Risen Lord* vss. 1 & 3 See page 6

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE Pastor Brent

THE STORY / THE FEAST

We will be sharing the meal through the practice of intinction. Whenever you are ready you may come forward to receive the bread and cup. If you would prefer, we also have kits which you can take back to your pew to consume there. If you cannot come forward we will bring the meal to you.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION *Lux Aeterna* (Requiem), John Rutter
Amy Shake, *soloist*

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS Pastor Brent

*SENDING CHARGE written by Bruce Pewter Cindy Brown

Go on your way rejoicing;
Surrounded as you are by such a great cloud of witnesses,
take courage as you face each new challenge,
and comfort when you pick yourself from a fall,
In whatever good you choose to do,
precede it with hope,
accompany it with prayer,
and follow it with thanksgiving.

*HYMN *O Savior, For the Saints* See page 7

*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent



POSTLUDE *Deep River* (Spiritual), arr. by David H. Hegarty

Heb. 12:1

William W. How, 1864; alt.

1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who to the
 2 You were their rock, their ref - uge, and their might: you, Christ, the
 3 Still may your peo - ple, faith - ful, true, and bold, live as the
 4 Ringed by this cloud of wit - ness - es di - vine, we fee - bly
 5 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long, steals on the

world their stead-fast faith con - fessed, your name, O Je - sus,
 hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you
 saints who no - bly fought of old, and share with them a
 strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet in your love our
 ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, then hearts are brave a -

be for - ev - er blessed.
 were their one true light.
 glo - rious crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 faith - ful lives en - twine.
 gain, and faith grows strong.

This traditional All Saints Day hymn originally consisted of eleven stanzas written for the Sarum Hymnal (1869) and set to a tune by that name, Sarum. It has grown in popularity since it was later paired with the enduring Sine Nomine in The English Hymnal (1906).

Tune: SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.
 Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Verses

1 & 3

Come, Risen Lord

503

SURSUM CORDA (Smith) 10.10.10.10

George Wallace Briggs, 1931

Alfred Morton Smith, 1941

1. Come, ris - en Lord, and deign to be our guest; Nay, let us
 2. We meet, as in that up - per room they met, Thou at the
 3. One bod - y we, one bod - y who par - take, One church u -
 4. One with each oth - er, Lord, for one in Thee, Who art one

be Thy guests; the feast is Thine; Thy - self at Thine own
 ta - ble, bless - ing, yet dost stand; "This is My bod - y";
 nit - ed in com - mu - nion blest; One name we bear, one
 Sav - ior and one liv - ing head; Then o - pen Thou our

board make man - i - fest In Thine own sac - ra - ment of bread and wine.
 so Thou giv - est yet: Faith still re - ceives the cup as from Thy hand.
 bread of life we break, With all Thy saints on earth and saints at rest.
 eyes, that we may see; Be known to us in break - ing of the bread.

Text: From *Songs of Praise*, 1931. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.

Music: Used by permission of the estate of Doris Wright Smith.

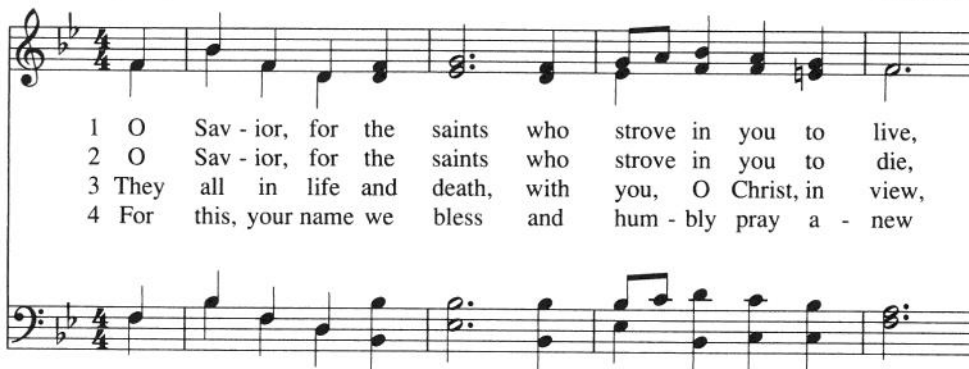
Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs (1990)

O Savior, for the Saints

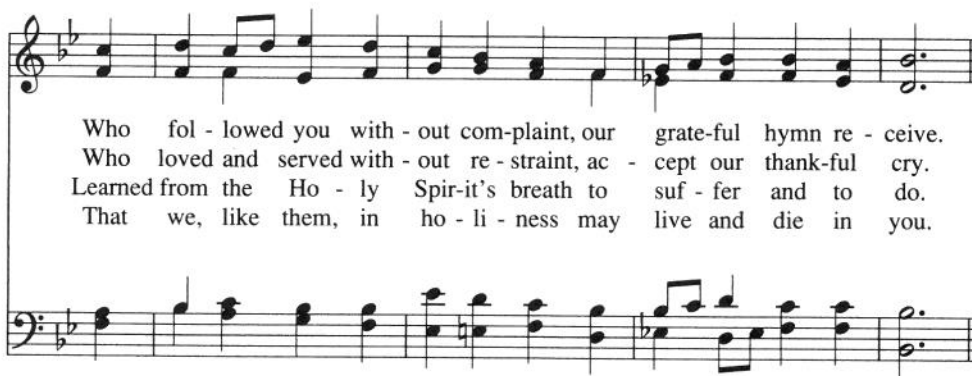
298

Richard Mant, 1837; alt.

Rom. 14:7-9



1 O Sav - ior, for the saints who strove in you to live,
2 O Sav - ior, for the saints who strove in you to die,
3 They all in life and death, with you, O Christ, in view,
4 For this, your name we bless and hum - bly pray a - new



Who fol - lowed you with - out com - plaint, our grate - ful hymn re - ceive.
Who loved and served with - out re - straint, ac - cept our thank - ful cry.
Learned from the Ho - ly Spir - it's breath to suf - fer and to do.
That we, like them, in ho - li - ness may live and die in you.

This was one of several original hymns appended to Richard Mant's book of translations of Latin hymns from the Roman Breviary. A priest of the Church of England, Mant was for many years a bishop in Ireland.

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
William Walter, 1872

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.

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

All hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723107

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.

Youth Group

Corn Maze and Treasure Hunt - today from 11:30 – 2:00pm. 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. 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. Questions? Ask Terry Wise.

God in the Wilderness

Wednesday, Nov 8 4:00pm (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. Facilitated by Margo Davis, MSW, LICSW. Questions? margobradleydavis@gmail.com

Advent Celebration

December 3 – sign up in JE Room

- * Potluck Lunch (after a brief coffee hour)
- * Followed by Christmas Crafts for all ages.

Stay for one or stay for both!

Please sign up in the JE Room so that we know how many to anticipate.



Holly Fair - Dec 2!!

Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

Alice Parker arranged the introit we are singing this morning. She was born in 1925. When she was doing her masters at Juilliard, her teacher was Robert Shaw of the famous Robert Shaw Chorale. They began a collaboration and produced many arrangements of hymns and folk songs that are still widely used today. She continued a prolific career in composition and arranging. When I studied with her in 2017 she was living alone in her house and still at the age of 92 climbing up and down a ladder (that she showed us) to her bedroom. She wrote in her newsletter this year that she has finally given up composing due to the failure of her eyesight. Though I found this sad, I also realize that Alice's life has been so long and so productive. What a blessing she is.