



*The First Congregational Church  
of the United Church of Christ  
Stockbridge, Massachusetts*  
**JESUS HEALS SUNDAY**  
*February 4, 2024 – 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 in the classroom with music and storytelling.  
Communion will be done through intinction today.

## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

GATHERING MUSIC

Peter Frost

PRELUDE

*Idyl*, by Edvard Grieg; arr. by Benton Price

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Pastor Brent Damrow

## **GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT / TIME OF GRATITUDE

INTROIT *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*, Alford/McFarland/Proulx

\*CALL TO WORSHIP written by Thom Shuman David Anderegg

One: With friends and strangers, with family and neighbors, we gather:

**All: Come among us, Healing God, with that love which never ends.**

One: With faith reaching out to touch, with hearts straining to trust, we hope:

**All: Come among us, Friend of the broken,  
with your compassion which makes us whole.**

continued

One: With word and wonder, with silence and song, we wait:

All: **Come among us, Dryer of our tears, to lift us to our feet to follow you.**

\*HYMN *O Christ, the Healer* vss. 1, 2, & 5 See page 4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor Brent

\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

CONTEMPORARY READING *For a New Beginning*, J. O'Donohue Jo Ann Levitt

*In out-of-the-way places of the heart,  
Where your thoughts never think to wander,  
This beginning has been quietly forming,  
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.*

*Then the delight, when your courage kindled,  
And out you stepped onto new ground,  
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,  
A path of plenitude opening before you.*

*For a long time it has watched your desire,  
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,  
Noticing how you willed yourself on,  
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.*

*Though your destination is not yet clear  
You can trust the promise of this opening;  
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning  
That is at one with your life's desire.*

*It watched you play with the seduction of safety  
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,  
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,  
Wondered would you always live like this.*

*Awaken your spirit to adventure;  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;  
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.*

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

\*HYMN *We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness* vs. 1 See page 5

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 5:21-43 Tim Bosworth & Drea Pecor

SERMON *Stories Upon Stories* Pastor Brent

\*HYMN *We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness* vss. 2, 3 See page 5

## 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.  
They will be read as written.



Verses

1, 2, & 5

# O Christ, the Healer

380

ERHALT UNS, HERR LM

Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1725)

Fred Pratt Green, 1969

—1. O Christ, the heal - er, we have come To pray for  
 2. From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures Our bod - ies  
 3. How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, How weak our  
 4. In con - flicts that de - stroy our health We rec - og -  
 —5. Grant that we all, made one in faith, In Your com -

health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to  
 clam - or to be freed; Yet in our hearts we  
 knowl - edge of our - selves! Re - lease in us those  
 nize the world's dis - ease; Our com - mon life de -  
 mu - ni - ty may find The whole - ness that, en -

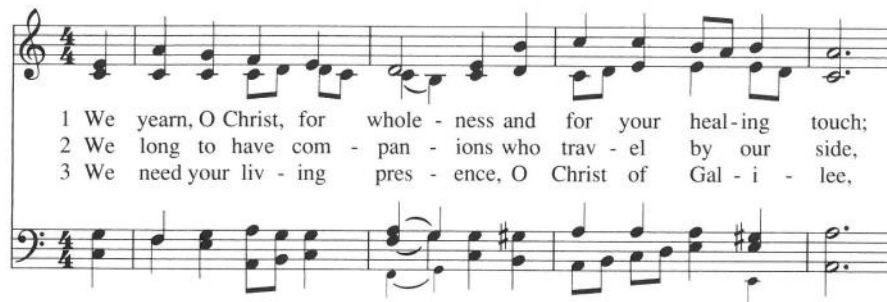
be re - stored, When reached by love that nev - er ends?  
 would con - fess That whole - ness is our deep - est need.  
 heal - ing truths Un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.  
 clares our ills: Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?  
 rich - ing us, Shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

Text: Copyright © 1969 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. ♩=76-84

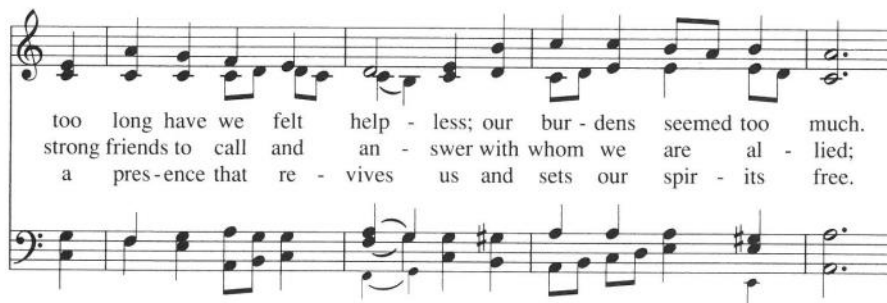
# We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

179

*Dosia Carlson, 1986; rev. 1993*



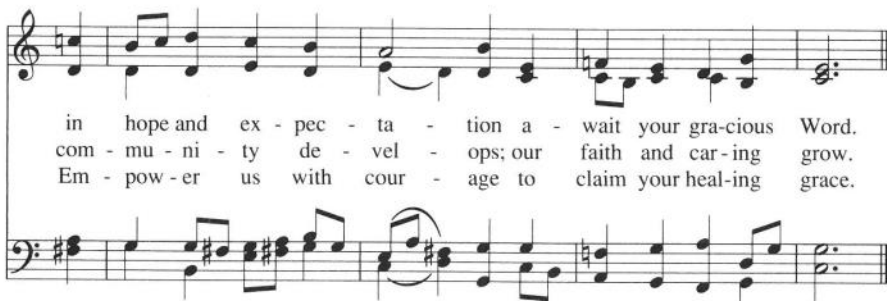
1 We yearn, O Christ, for whole - ness and for your heal - ing touch;  
2 We long to have com - pan - ions who trav - el by our side,  
3 We need your liv - ing pres - ence, O Christ of Gal - i - lee,



too long have we felt help - less; our bur - dens seemed too much.  
strong friends to call and an - swer with whom we are al - lied;  
a pres - ence that re - vives us and sets our spir - its free.



For - get - ting all pre - tens - es we make our plead - ings heard,  
As we lift up each oth - er when strug - gles lay us low,  
No long - er are we fear - ful, your love per - vades each place.



in hope and ex - pec - ta - tion a - wait your gra - cious Word.  
com - mu - ni - ty de - vel - ops; our faith and car - ing grow.  
Em - pow - er us with cour - age to claim your heal - ing grace.

*Dosia Carlson is noted for her ministry at Beatitudes United Church of Christ in Phoenix, Arizona, and for her hymnwriting. This text was inspired by a sermon given by Harold Wilke during the International Year of Persons with Disabilities (1983).*

Tune: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D.  
*Hans Leo Hassler, 1601*  
*Harm. J. S. Bach, 1719*  
*For another harmonization, see 202*

*The New Century Hymnal (1995)*

# Lord's Prayer

Mark Miller

*mp*  
Our God, in heaven, holy is your name, your  
reign come, your will done, on earth as in heaven.

*slower*  
Give us to-day our dai - ly bread, and help us for - give, as we have been for - giv - en.

*mf*  
In the time of tri - al lead us in - to light, for yours is the kin - dom, and the  
po - wer, and the glo - ry, for - e - ver. Our God, in  
hea - ven, ho - ly is your name, ho - ly is your name.

## Go, My Children, with My Blessing

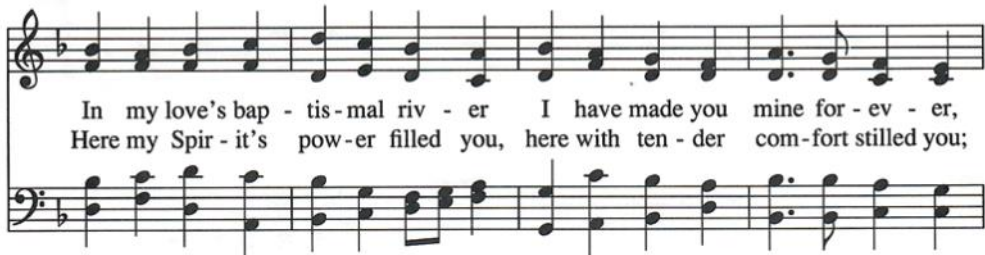
Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983, 1990; alt.



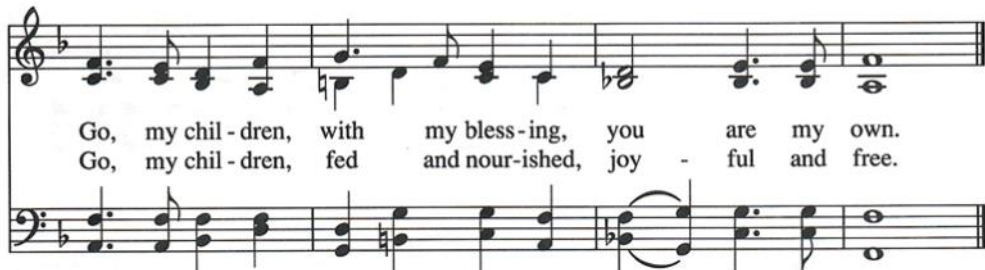
1 Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone;  
2 Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me;



Wak - ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own;  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here with ten - der com - fort stilled you;



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.

*American hymnwriter and translator Jaroslav Vajda crafted this benediction text as though God were "dismissing the congregation after worship, while drawing together a review of the events that transpired during the service." The wedding stanza was a later addition.*

Tune: AR HYD Y NOS 8.4.8.4.8.8.8.4.  
*Traditional Welsh melody*  
For another harmonization, see 425

The text for today's offertory is *Earth Song*, by Frank Ticheli

Sing, Be, Live, See...

This dark stormy hour,

The wind, it stirs.

The scorched earth

cries out in vain:

O war and power,

You blind and blur.

The torn heart

cries out in pain.

But music and singing

Have been my refuge,

And music and singing

Shall be my light.

A light of song

Shining strong: Alleluia!

Through darkness, pain and strife, I'll

Sing, Be, Live, See...

*Peace.*



**Please stay for the Annual Budget Meeting after worship**

**Lent schedule** Growth & Fellowship will start the season by serving King Cakes at Fellowship Hour on Feb. 11. On Ash Wednesday, there is imposition of ashes from 12:00-2:00pm in the sanctuary, then a joint service at 5:30pm at the West Stockbridge Village Congregational Church.

**Warm Up the Winter: Construct**

**Fundraiser** On February 18 and 25, the Board of Mission and Action invites the

congregation to consider donating to this fundraiser. There will be a giving table at fellowship hour on those two days, staffed by Tristan Osgood.

**Lenten Study: "Befriending Death"**

The Board of CE is preparing small group sessions centered around the topic of death - whether our own or the death of someone we love. We will be leaning on a beautiful, small work by Henri Nouwen, "Our Greatest Gift - A Meditation on Dying and Caring." More information coming soon.

*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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