



*The First Congregational Church  
of the United Church of Christ  
Stockbridge, Massachusetts  
REBUILDING SUNDAY  
March 3, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.*

Each week in worship we welcome people to share their prayers. If you would like for a worship leader to read your prayer, fill out a prayer slip. Nursery care is available during the worship service, please ask an usher.

Children are welcome to begin in the classroom with music and storytelling.  
Communion will be in the pews today.

### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

PRELUDE *Meditation* by Jules Massenet; Dustin Qian, *flute* Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Pastor Brent Damrow

### **GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

TOLLING OF THE HOUR / TIME OF GRATITUDE

INTROIT *Zufall* by Masashi/Hamauzu; arr. by Dustin Qian for flute & piano

\*CALL TO WORSHIP from the Sojourn Music website

Jo Ann Levitt

One: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

**All: We rejoice in our God, who made a way  
through the desert of this world.**

One: Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy  
to flow in the wasteland.

**All: We are the people God has formed through Christ;  
we worship him, and we rejoice!**

One: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**All: We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!**

\*HYMN

*This is the Day*

See page 5

CONTEMPORARY READING *For Peace*, by John O'Donohue

From *Benedictus: A Book of Blessings*, 2007

SUNG PSALM

Psalm 86:8-13

Response

Unison

E F#m/E EM7 A/E E B7 E

Antiphon: Judy Hunnicutt, 1994

O God, you a-bound in stead-fast love to all who call on you.

Psalm tone

<sup>8</sup>There is none like you among  
the gods, O God,  
nor are there any works like yours.

<sup>9</sup>All the nations you have made  
shall come and bow down  
before you, O God,  
and shall glorify your name.

<sup>10</sup>For you are great and do  
wondrous things;  
you alone are God. *R*

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O God,  
that I may walk in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to  
revere your name.

<sup>12</sup>I give thanks to you, O God my God,  
with all my heart,  
and I will glorify your name  
forever.

<sup>13</sup>For great is your steadfast love  
toward me;  
you have delivered my soul  
from the depths of Sheol. *R*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE / PASSING THE PEACE

TESTIMONIAL

Doug Williams

## OFFERING 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.

OFFERTORY            *Till We Meet Again* by Peter Frost. Melody and words to  
refrain from J. E. Rankin/R. V. Williams, for Choir, Flute, and Piano  
(see music notes)

\*DOXOLOGY            *A Lenten Doxology*, by G.W. Dub Shepherd\*            Old 100th  
**Praise God throughout these forty days.  
Praise Christ, our Lord, who God did raise.  
And praise the spirit who imparts  
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.**

### \*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of the wilderness, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in  
the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith,  
trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in  
hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And  
with these offerings, we give ourselves; May we live with generous  
hearts, with open hands. Amen** ~ written by Joanna Harader

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING	Mark 12:1-12	Drea Pecor
SERMON	<i>Rebuilding</i>	Pastor Brent
*HYMN	<i>Just As I Am</i>	See page 6

## BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

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PRAYER RESPONSE    *Take My Life, God, Let It Be*, Havergal/Knecht (Hendon)

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PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003. Web site <http://www.umcworship.org>.

# THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor Brent

SHARING THE STORY / BLESSING THE FEAST

SHARING THE MEAL

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION *Let Us Break Bread Together*

Bread: *verse 1*

- 1 Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.**

Refrain:

**When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Cup: *verse 2*

- 2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]**

Prayer of Thanksgiving: *verse 3*

- 3 Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]**

ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*We invite you to give to your local food pantry. You can also leave canned goods and staples for the People's Pantry and the Pop-Up Pantry in baskets at each exit.*

## GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

\*SENDING SONG

*O Savior, Let Me Walk with Thee, vs. 3*

See page 7

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent



POSTLUDE

*It is enough (Elijah), Mendelsohn*

John Demler, *bass*; Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.

St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our  
 2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus  
 3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

God has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be  
 rose a - gain; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be  
 Spir - it came; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be glad in it, and be

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joice and be  
 glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joice and be  
 glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joice and be

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.  
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.  
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

The first stanza of this hymn was written by Leslie Garrett, who was born in New Zealand and served as pastor of a church in western Australia. The other two stanzas are anonymous.

Tune: THIS IS THE DAY Irr.  
 Les Garrett, 1967

# Just as I Am

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Charlotte Elliott, 1836; alt.

John 6:37; Eph. 2:14

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a  
3 Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,  
4 Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken

blood was shed for me, And that you called in -  
con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -  
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise  
ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be yours, and

vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!  
yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

*This text appeared in Charlotte Elliott's Invalid's Hymn Book, published in England in 1836. Disabled at age thirty, she continued a career of writing and editing. This hymn has been translated into many languages.*

Tune: WOODWORTH L.M.  
William B. Bradbury, 1849

## O Savior, Let Me Walk with You

*Washington Gladden, 1879; alt.*

1 O Sav - ior, let me walk with you in earth - ly  
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear  
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; let me be in clos - er,  
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; Tell me your se - cret,  
 win - ning word of love. Teach me the way - ward  
 dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith  
 fu - ture's broad - ening way, In peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.  
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.  
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.  
 you can give, with you, O Sav - ior, let me live.

*The New Century Hymnal (1995)*

## Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

*Till We Meet Again* was composed in 2010. I was not sure how I felt about it so it went on the shelf. Revised twice in '15 and '23, today it will be heard for the first time. It began with a dream. I woke up from this dream with a profound feeling of peace. I immediately got up and drafted the lyrics. I chose to use the words and melody to the refrain of *God Be With You* by Rankin and Vaughn Williams as my refrain. I wrote polyphonic harmonies to this beautiful tune.

~

In this dream I was very old and chopping firewood in the snow. I realized I was dying. As I was leaving I saw the emotions of my children and our grandchildren (still waiting), as they carried my coffin. The third verse reads:

*Our grandkids now sing, somber as winter  
They can't seem to see, how great I have missed her  
Their sorrow I feel as they turn the last chorus;  
It's alright that it's over, farewell, farewell.*

## News and Announcements

### Easter Flowers

The sanctuary will be filled with beautiful pots of flowers for Easter. You may order a plant in memory of or in honor of a loved one; the deadline is March 24. The recommended donation is \$20 per plant. There are forms and a drop-box in the JE Room.

### "One Great Hour of Sharing" Offering

On Sunday, March 10, we will be taking an offering for OGHS, which is one of the UCC's special mission offerings. This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ. Checks may be made payable to First Congregational Church, memo line: OGHS.

*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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