



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

JUDAS SUNDAY

April 7, 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 sanctuary. Communion will be by intinction today.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE

Elegy by F. Peeters

Peter Frost, *organ*

WELCOME AND FRAMING WORDS

Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

*GATHERING SONG

Halleluja

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

*This joyous response may be used following readings of scripture,
or as a processional or recessional, especially during Easter.*

Tune: HALLELUJA
Caribbean melody

*CALL TO WORSHIP from the Iona Community Ronnie Cunningham

Leader: He was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna...

People: He was always the guest.

Leader: At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor...

People: He was always the guest.

Leader: Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger...

People: He was always the guest.

Leader: But here at this table...

People: He is the host.

Leader: Those who wish to serve him...

People: Must first be served by him.

Leader: Those who want to follow him...

People: Must first be fed by him.

Leader: Those who would wash his feet

People: Must first let him make them clean.

Leader: For this is the table where god intends us to be nourished...

People: This is the time when Christ can make us new.

Leader: So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world.

People: Jesus Christ who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Elizabeth Young

MOMENT OF REFLECTION AND PREPARATION

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING AROUND THE TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor Brent

SHARING THE STORY AND BLESSING THE FEAST

We will be sharing the meal through the practice of intinction. You may come forward to receive the bread and cup. 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.

OFFERING OUR PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Sung Lord's Prayer

See page 5

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.

Children may go to music / story time.

INTROIT *How Blest Are Those*, (Psalm 32), harmony by G.R. Woodward

CONTEMPORARY READING *Breaking and Entering*, by Liz Goodman

Drea Pecor

*HYMN

The Day of Resurrection vss. 1&2

See page 6

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

SERMON

Easter and Judas and Us

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

See page 7

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Bow Down Thine Ear (Bach), arr. by Daniel Burton

*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

Pastor Brent

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

PRAYER RESPONSE

Passion Chorale, Hassler, harmony by Bach

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

CLOSING PRAYER

We Also Live Double Lives, Walter Brueggemann

David Anderegg

Power turns and postures and exhibits.

It controls and manages and plots.

We participate in it,

we benefit from it,

we are dazzled by it...and more than a little afraid.

Just underneath, all the while...

Just underneath dazzling power

sits violence and brutality,

greed and fear and envy,

cunning and shamelessness.

In that too we participate.

Like the ancients, we also live double lives,

public in pageant and role and office,

hidden in meanness and thinness.

We do not do well at bringing this double together.

But we confess you to be Lord of all of our lives.

Give us new freedom about our public lives,

give us new candor about our hidden lives,

Correct what is brutal and greedy and fearful,

chasten what is hidden and mean.

Make us women and men of *shalom*,

the kind of welfare you will for our common life. Amen.

*HYMN

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

See pew hymnal #104

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross (Crucifer) by John Levitt

Lord's Prayer

Mark Miller

mp

Our God, in hea-ven, ho-ly is your name, your

reign come, your will done, on earth as in hea-ven.

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

f *mp*

po- wer, and the glo-ry, for-e-ver. Our God, in

hea-ven, ho-ly is your name, ho-ly is your name.

The Day of Resurrection

John of Damascus, 8th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1862; alt.

Mark 16:1-6

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Christ who reigns e - ter - nal in res - ur - rec - tion light;
the whole world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,
We lis - ten for the teach - ings once heard so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad-ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
for we, too, want to fol - low and raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ a - gain has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

A Greek canon—an extended poem of eight or nine odes, each based on a scriptural canticle—was the source of this hymn. John of Damascus gave up a high government position to enter a monastery.

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
Henry T. Smart, 1836

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Introduction



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness
2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure



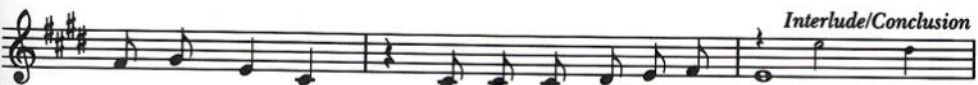
of the sea; there's a kind - ness in his jus -
up in heaven; there is no place where earth's fail -
of the mind; and the heart of the E - ter -



tice, which is more than lib - er - ty. There is wel - come
ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given. There is plen - ti -
nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were



for the sin - ner, and more grac - es for the good; there is mer - cy
ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed; there is joy for
but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word; and our life would



with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Interlude/Conclusion



Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

I like to play organ music by Flor Peeters (1903-1986). I believe his music really brings out the best of the beauty and capabilities of this instrument. Peeters was a Belgian composer and teacher. He was the youngest of eleven children. As a pedagogue and organist, Peeters enjoyed great renown concertizing and giving master classes all over the world. Of the over 100 pieces that he composed they were primarily written for organ and/or for choir. In 1971 he was made Baron Peeters by King Baudouin of Belgium.

All Church Birthday Party

Celebrate our birthdays after church on May 5! Potluck signup in the JE room, on Breeze, or by calling the church office. Last initial A-G please bring main dish, H-P side dish, Q-Z salad. Our theme is The Four Seasons – sit with your friends born in your season! Join the seasonal song competition! Eat Cake! Seasonal attire encouraged.

April 10: Community Supper

Soup bar! Bring your favorite soup or side, if you wish. 5:30pm

April 21- Care for Creation Sunday

While the texts might change, the Genesis text contains a word in Hebrew (radah) which is not the traditional word for “rule” rather it connotes as one Hebrew scholar notes, “to actively partner with God in taking the world forward.” We will look at our role to partner with God for the good of all creation.

Thanks to all who made Easter so beautiful, meaningful, and welcoming.

Welcome! We are Open and Affirming, 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.

As followers of Christ and committed to Isaiah's charge to “maintain justice and do what is right,” we acknowledge with gratitude and humility that we are learning, speaking, gathering, and worshiping on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican people, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all.

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