



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

FINAL SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 12, 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.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE

Sarabande by Jean-Marie Leclair

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT / TIME OF GRATITUDE

*GATHERING SONG *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth* See page 5

*CALL TO WORSHIP by Christine Longhurst, based on Psalm 139

Cindy Brown

One: We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God,

All: **Who, like a mother, knows us intimately,**

One: Loves us unconditionally,

All: **Teaches us the way we should go,**

One: and comforts us in times of need.

All: **Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Definitions*

The Lord's Prayer adapted by Parker J. Palmer

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,
Holy and blessed is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,
From each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence
Beyond the evil of our days –
Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One.**

Children may go to music / story time.

INTROIT *For The Beauty of The Earth*, by Conrad Kocher arr by Krug Bells

CONTEMPORARY READING *Resurrection* Ron Hanft

Is it true that after this life of ours we shall one day be awakened
by a terrifying clamour of trumpets?
Forgive me, God, but I console myself
that the beginning and resurrection of all of us dead
will simply be announced by the crowing of the cock.
After that we'll remain lying down a while ...
The first to get up
will be Mother ... We'll hear her
quietly laying the fire,
quietly putting the kettle on the stove
and cosily taking the teapot out of the cupboard.
We'll be home once more.

~ Vladimir Holan, translated from the Czech by George Theiner

*HYMN

Christ the Lord is Risen Today, vss. 1 & 2

See page 6

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

*SCRIPTURE READING	1 Corinthians 15:1-11a	Cindy Brown
*HYMN	<i>Christ the Lord is Risen Today</i> , vs. 3	See page 6
SCRIPTURE READING	1 Corinthians 15:51-57	Cindy Brown
SERMON	<i>Resurrection</i>	Pastor Brent
*HYMN	<i>Abide with Me</i> vss. 1, 4-5	See page 7

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY	<i>This Is My Song</i> , by Jean Sibelius, arr. by Jason Krug	Bells
*DOXOLOGY	<i>Lasst Uns Erfreuen</i>	

**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

MOMENT FOR MISSION	Strengthen the Church	Carl Bradford
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE		Drea Pecor
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One: For our mothers, who have given us life and love,
may we show them reverence and love,

All: We pray to the Lord...

One: For mothers who have lost a child whether while still drawing breath or
through death, that their faith may give them hope,
and may their family and friends support and console them,

All: We pray to the Lord...

One: For people who, though without children of their own,
like mothers have nurtured and cared for us,

All: We pray to the Lord...

continued

One: For mothers who have been unable to be a source of strength,
who have not responded to their children
and have not sustained their families,

All: We pray to the Lord...

One: Loving Mother God, like an earthly mother who gives life and
nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church.

Bless every mother of all kinds.

Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.

**All: Grant that we, their children,
may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen**

~ written by Donna M. Cox in Mother's Day: Music and Worship Resources.

Posted on The African American Lectionary
website: theafricanamericanlectionary.org/

PRAYER RESPONSE *Were You There?* Spiritual, arr. by Peter Frost

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

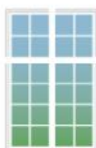
INVITATIONS

*HYMN *Thine is the Glory* See pew hymnal #122

*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent

POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Bell Choir
by J. Wyeth Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813 arr by Krug

Immediately after the service will be a Question & Answer session led by the Procter Hall Working Group. This will also be available via Zoom.

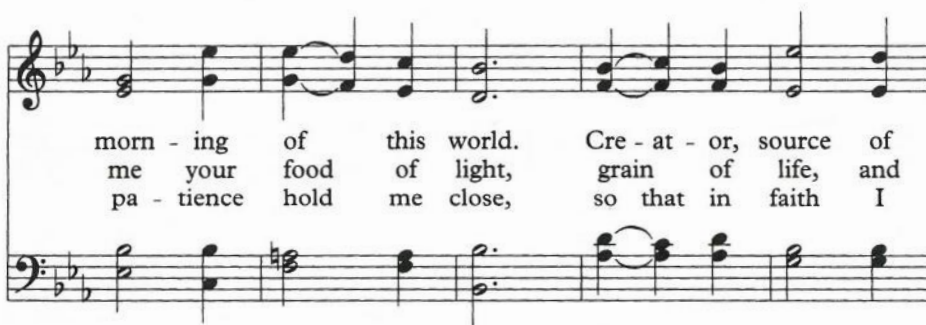


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Stockbridge, Massachusetts


Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth 2050



1. Moth-er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
2. Moth-er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
3. Moth-er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - at - or, source of
me your food of light, grain of life, and
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I



ev - ery breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
grape of love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
root and grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

WORDS: Jean Janzen, based on the writings of Juliana of Norwich (15th cent.)

MUSIC: H. Percy Smith

MARYTON

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The Faith We Sing (2000)

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

Luke 24:29; 1 Cor. 15:55

Henry F. Lyte, 1847; alt.

Verses
1, 4 & 5

1 A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need your pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless;
 5 Hold now your cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

The shad - ows deep - en, Lord, with me a - bide;
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 I need your grace to foil the tempt - er's power.
 Ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness;
 Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail, and com - forts flee,
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Give me your love my guide and stay to be.
 Where is death's sting? where, grave, your vic - to - ry?
 Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O Christ who chang - es not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still if you a - bide with me.
 In life, in death, O Christ, a - bide with me.

Following the final sermon of his career, Henry F. Lyte handed a copy of this recently written hymn to a relative. He died two months later. The tune by W. H. Monk has contributed greatly to the popularity of the hymn.

Tune: EVENTIDE 10.10.10.
 William H. Monk, 1861

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

News and Announcements

Call to Meeting - May 19

To all members of The First Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ, Stockbridge, MA: In accordance with the By-laws of the Church, we hereby call the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, May 19 at 11:00am, following worship.

Included will be votes to approve:

1. Recommendations from the Procter Hall Proceeds Working Group.
 2. Nominating slate for Officers, and Board and Committee members
 3. To act upon any other business that may legally come before the meeting.
- Jeremy Ridenour, Clerk
Ron Hanft, Moderator

Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

Jean-Marie Leclair (1697-1764) was a French Baroque composer who wrote the beautiful Sarabande I am playing for the Prelude today. He was also well-known as a violinist. Leclair was born in Lyon, France. Jean-Marie was named Director of Music by Louis XV in 1733. He drew upon all of the European national styles in his compositions. Much of his music is believed to be lost.

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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