



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

**TRINITY SUNDAY – SUNG WORSHIP**

*May 26, 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

*Song by Flor Peeters*

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Pastor Brent Damrow

## **GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT / TIME OF GRATITUDE

\*SONG

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

See page 4

\*CALL TO WORSHIP from *A Wee Worship Book*

Sarah Conly

One: I will light a light in the name of the Maker,

who lit the world and breathed the breath of life for me.

All:

Glo - ri - a, Glo - ri - a, Glo - ri - a,  
in ex - cel - sis De - o.

continued

One: I will light a light in the name of the Son,  
Who saved the world and stretched out his hand to me.

**All: sing *Gloria*** (previous page)

One: I will light a light in the name of the Spirit  
Who encompasses the world and blessed by soul with yearning.

**All: sing *Gloria***

**All: We will light three lights for the trinity of love:  
God above us, God beside us, God beneath us;  
The beginning, the end, the everlasting one.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN / The Lord's Prayer

Children may go to music / story time.

SUNG INVOCATION *Christians, We Have Met to Worship* (tune: Holy Manna)

Christians, we have met to worship and adore our Holy God.  
Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the Word?  
All is vain unless the spirit of the Holy One comes down;  
Christians, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.

CONTEMPORARY READING Frederick Buechner *on the Trinity* Rick Floyd

\*HYMN *Come Now, Almighty God* See page 5

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 8:14-17 Terry Wise

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

CHRISTIAN REFLECTION OF THE TRINITY, by Richard Rohr Terry Wise

"St. Bonaventure (1221-1274) called the Trinity a "fountain fullness" of love.  
God is unhindered dialogue, a positive and inclusive flow, an eternal

waterwheel of self-emptying and outpouring love – that knows it can completely self-empty because it will always be filled back up. This is the very definition and description of divine love; all human love merely imitates, approximates, and celebrates this same pattern.”

SERMON *The Trinity – A Fluid Foundation for a Life of Movement* Pastor Brent

\*HYMN *Three Times Holy, God of Love* See page 6

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO *Opus 118 no. 5 by Brahms* Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

\*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

A PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

PRAYER RESPONSE *Lead Me Lord*, by Samuel Wesley

## GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

\*SENDING CHARGE by Tim Watson Michael Deegan

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit send us out to live lives that glorify you**

**Help us to be people of peace, empower us to recognize your call**

**In our families, in our communities, in our work places and schools,**

**in our churches and in our world. Amen.**

\*HYMN *Praise with Joy the World's Creator* See page 7

\*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent

POSTLUDE *Prelude on Lebe den Herren*, arr. by Dorothy Howell Sheet  
Hui-Mei Lin, *organ*

# 10 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,  
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide thee,  
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee;  
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 though the sin - ful hu - man eye thy glo - ry may not see;  
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
 ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 God ev - er - liv - ing, through e - ter - ni - ty.  
 per - fect in power, in love, and pur - i - ty.  
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

WORDS: Reginald Heber, 1826, alt.  
 MUSIC: John Bacchus Dykes, 1861

NICAEA  
 11 12.12 10

For this hymn Reginald Heber, Anglican Bishop of India, drew heavily on the imagery of God in heaven found in Revelation, chapters 4 and 5.

## Come Now, Almighty God

*Anon., English, c. 1757; alt.*

1 Come now, Al - might - y God, help us your  
 2 Come now, In - car - nate Word, by heaven and  
 3 Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, your sa - cred  
 4 To you, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to laud; our songs we raise:  
 earth a - dored; our prayer at - tend:  
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour.  
 prais - es be for ev - er - more.

Rul - er all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,  
 Come, and your peo - ple bless, and give your word suc - cess;  
 Your grace to us im - part, now rule in ev - ery heart,  
 Your sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days!  
 grant us your ho - li - ness, Sav - ior and Friend!  
 nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of power!  
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

*This anonymous English hymn to the Trinity was first published in George Whitefield's Collection, 1757. This tune was composed especially for this text by Giardini, who was a brilliant violinist.*

Tune: ITALIAN HYMN 6.6.4.6.6.6.4.  
*Felice de Giardini, 1769*

## Three times holy, God of love

*Holy Trinity 7777*

WALTZ

Warmly ♩ = 104

1. Three— times ho - ly, God of love,  
 2. Bound - less as the ga - lax - y,  
 3. Pro - phet of the hon - est way,  
 4. Wind that brings the world to life,  
 5. Three— times ho - ly, God of love,

born on earth en - throned a - bove,  
 fer - tile as the teem - ing sea,  
 Sage who taught us all to pray,  
 breath that heals our pain and strife,  
 born on earth en - throned a - bove,

still cre - a - ting, blow - ing free,  
 You are leav - en, You are seed,  
 You are ris - en from the dead,  
 You con - vict, con - vert, con - sole,  
 still cre - a - ting, blow - ing free,

gra - cious, ho - ly Tri - ni - ty.  
 You, the fount of all we need.  
 still our hope, our liv - ing bread.  
 en - ter now and make us whole.  
 gra - cious, ho - ly Tri - ni - ty.

Text: John Thornburg, 1954- , © 2007

Music: Alice Parker © 2007

# Praise with Joy the World's Creator

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*The Iona Community, 1985; alt.*

1 Praise with joy the world's Cre - a - tor, God of jus - tice,  
 2 Praise to Christ who feeds the hun - gry, frees the cap - tive,  
 3 Praise the Spir - it sent a - mong us, lib - er - a - ting  
 4 Praise the Mak - er, Christ, and Spir - it, one God in Com -

love, and peace, Source and end of hu - man knowl - edge,  
 finds the lost, Heals the sick, up - sets re - li - gion,  
 truth from pride, Forg - ing bonds where race or gen - der,  
 mu - ni - ty, Call - ing Christ - ians to em - bod - y

grace be - stow - ing with - out cease. Cel - e - brate the  
 fear - less both of fate and cost. Cel - e - brate Christ's  
 age or na - tion dare di - vide. Cel - e - brate the  
 one - ness and di - ver - si - ty. Thus the world shall

Ma - ker's glo - ry, power to res - cue and re - lease.  
 con - stant pres - ence— Friend and Strang - er, Guest and Host.  
 Spir - it's trea - sure— fool - ish - ness none dare de - ride.  
 yet be - lieve when shown Christ's vi - brant un - i - ty.

*The Iona Community works and worships in a tenth-century abbey on the remote island of Iona, Scotland. Their output of hymns and songs includes this one written for the anniversary gathering of the World Student Christian Federation in Edinburgh in 1985.*

Tune: LAUDA ANIMA (PRAISE MY SOUL)  
 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
 John Goss, 1869

*The New Century Hymnal (1995)*

## Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

Our offertory solo this morning, Opus 118, no. 5 by Johannes Brahms is part of a set of six songs. This opus was completed in 1893 and published in dedication to Clara Schumann. This set of songs was his penultimate published work for piano solo.

## News and Announcements

### Stockbridge Memorial Day Parade

May 27. The parade starts at the Town Hall at 12:15pm, concludes at The First Congregational Church front lawn at 12:45. Because Procter Hall is under renovation, the subsequent program and activities will be on the church lawn. The church office will be closed. Church volunteers to help with building logistics that day welcomed; contact the church office for information.

As an Open and Affirming Congregation we approach **Pride Month** with faith, welcome and love. We will kick off June with a Pride Worship on June 2. This service is a great place to invite those looking for a church home. Tomorrow, we will be sending more information about Pride Activities including regional events and a Community Book Read we are hosting using Austen Hartke's wonderful work *transforming - The Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians*. Questions - contact Pastor Brent.

*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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