



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

PRIDE SUNDAY

June 2, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

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.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE *Minuet* by G. F. Handel, arr. by S. Drummond Wolff

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

*HYMN *Sing a New World Into Being* See page 5

*CALL TO WORSHIP From the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition
written by Mak Kneebone Will Smith

One: From ancient times to this present day, people have gathered in sacred spaces like this one.

ALL: Moments of time fold together when we immerse ourselves in love and connection.

One: We ask for Divine Love to be revealed to us in this gathering.

ALL: We open our spirits to the depth and breadth of Divine Presence.

One: We listen for sacred whisperings and await holy joy to be written on our hearts.

ALL: Being truly ourselves, we come together in this eternal moment.

One: We bring our prayers to you as one community, one assembled body

ALL: Transgender, Nonbinary, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Intersex, Gay, Queer, Ally. Beloved people of God. We come, and we pledge our commitment to walk the path of Jesus.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Brent

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Rainbow Image Bearers* based on Genesis 1:26-27a

The Lord's Prayer

Our God, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Children are invited to take part in Sunday School classes.

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING	Acts 8:26-40 (The Voice)	Elizabeth Young
SERMON	<i>Embodied Faith</i>	Pastor Brent
*HYMN	<i>I Met a Stranger on the Road</i>	See page 6
*OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT (adopted May 31, 2009)		Ron Hanft

We, the First Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ, Stockbridge, Massachusetts, in response to the life and teachings of Jesus that we may all be one, hereby declare our congregation to be open and affirming.

We invite persons of every sexual orientation, gender identification and expression, racial and cultural identity, age, physical ability, economic circumstances, faith background, and family structure to share fully in the ministry, leadership, and fellowship of this congregation's life in Christ.

We acknowledge that discrimination of any kind is incompatible with Christ's gospel of unconditional love, and we affirm the Resolution of General Synod 15, United Church of Christ (July 2, 1985) "Calling on United Church of Christ congregations to covenant as open and affirming."

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (spiritual) by Lloyd Larsen

*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.

*UNISON BLESSING OF THE GIFTS by Lavon Baylor David Anderegg

For all the great and wondrous things you have done for us, O God, we are grateful. You give us strength to go on when we are troubled and discouraged. You grant newness of life as we share in Christ's resurrection. We want to pass on the good news through this offering and by the way we live each day. Lead us, and guide us with your steadfast love, that we might channel your gifts to all we meet. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Brent

RESPONSE

When Peace, Like a River, Psalm 146, John 1, by Spafford/Bliss

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

CONTEMPORARY READING

Ronnie Cunningham

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor Brent

SHARING THE STORY AND BLESSING THE FEAST

We will be using the practice of intinction. You may come forward to receive the bread and cup. If you cannot come forward we will bring the meal to you.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION *In the Midst of New Dimensions* (Julian Rush)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

Pastor Brent

*SENDING CHARGE

Written by Kimi Floyd Reisch

Drea Pecor

Continue to serve with faith and love,
Depart from this time today committed to sharing the best of yourself,
Through generosity of time and resources,
Meeting the needs of others, both spoken and unspoken, seen and unseen,
heard and unheard
As the God of healing has healed us,
Let us go now and share that compassion with the world,
Let us go and greet our beloved transgender, bisexual, lesbian, and gay
siblings,
Our Black, Latinx, Indigenous, siblings,
Sharing the good news that they are seen, they are heard, they are Beloved.
Go now in hope. Amen.

*HYMN

All the Colors of the Rainbow

See page 7

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent



POSTLUDE

Sonata K. 330, Allegro by W.A. Mozart

Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

For the Postlude Hui-Mei will play the third movement (Allegretto) of Mozart's Piano Sonata, K. 330 (C major). This is part of a cycle of three sonatas, 330, 331, and 332. This piece is one of Mozart's most popular piano sonatas. He wrote it in 1783 when he was 27 years old. The third movement is the most energetic of the three movements. It is also one of his brightest and happiest sonatas. Three months prior to this sonata he had written the Sonata in a minor, which was in fact quite somber, as he was grieving the loss of his mother.

Sing a New World into Being

Mary Louise Bringle

NETTLETON

Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second 1813

1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry

Find a tune for si - lent yearn - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;

dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.
where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.
where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.

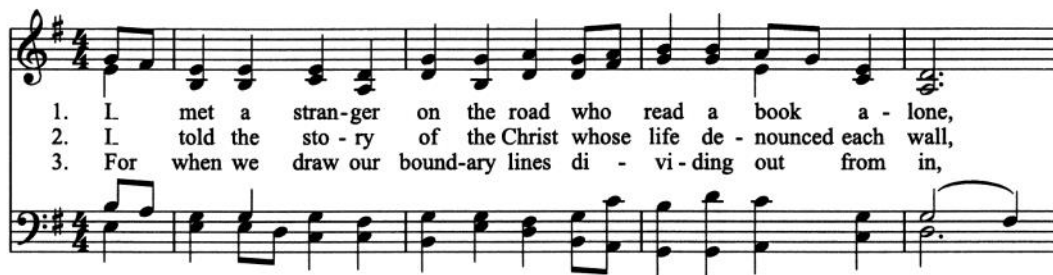
Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

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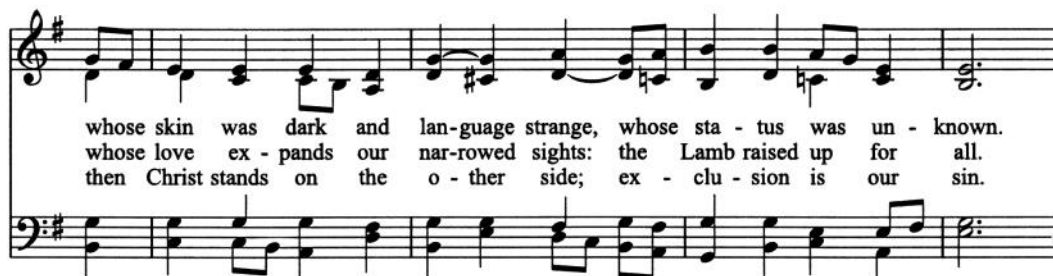
I Met a Stranger On the Road

David Bjorlin

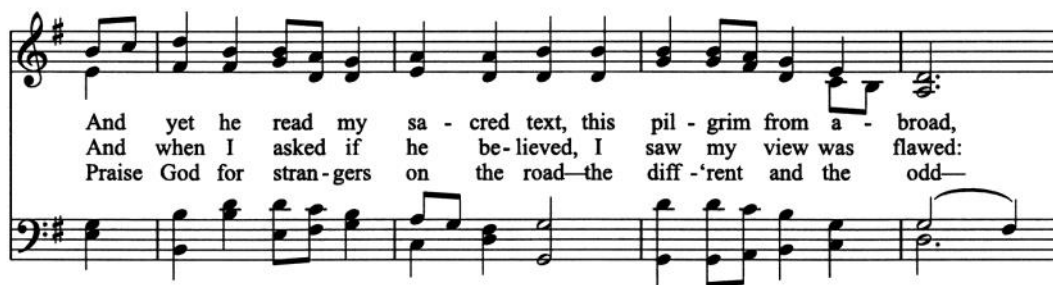
KINGSFOLD
Ralph Vaughan Williams



1. I met a stran-ger on the road who read a book a - lone,
2. I told the sto - ry of the Christ whose life de - nounced each wall,
3. For when we draw our bound-ary lines di - vi - ding out from in,



whose skin was dark and lan-guage strange, whose sta - tus was un - known.
whose love ex - pands our nar-rowed sights: the Lamb raised up for all.
then Christ stands on the o - ther side; ex - clu - sion is our sin.



And yet he read my sa - cred text, this pil - grim from a - broad,
And when I asked if he be - lieved, I saw my view was flawed:
Praise God for stran-gers on the road—the diff - 'rent and the odd—



and asked, "Where can I find a guide to lead me to this God?"
we both en - coun - tered grace that day, we both were led to God.
the pil - grim guides who take our hand and lead us back to God.

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All the Colors of the Rainbow

Carl P. Daw

ABBOT'S LEIGH
Cyril V. Taylor

1. All the co - lours of the rain-bow live un - seen in dai - ly light,
2. All the bo - dy's parts are wan-ted, nor can one de - spise the rest:
3. Ev - ery lang - uage gains more mu - sic when the words for peace ap - pear:
4. Teach us, God, our need of oth - ers; through them help us ful - ly live.

but their splen - dors find ex - pres-sion when re - leased to hu - man sight;
head and hand must work to - get - ther, as must eye and ear and chest;
Pax, Sa - laam, Ei - ri - ni, Hei - wa, Pa - ce, San - ti, Frie den, Mir.
Wean us from our sel - fish hab - its; let us list - en, learn, for - give.

so the church re - veals most beau - ty where di - ver - si - ty is real:
so the church needs all its mem - bers for a range of min - i - stries:
Though our tongues make sounds that va - ry all be - speak a com - mon home:
May we see your longed - for im - age in each hu - man heart and face,

breadth of race and class and gen - der, room for doubt and space to heal.
var - ied gifts with one great mis - sion, "Do this for the least of these."
long - ing for the end of con - flict and a new life in God's Sha - lom.
and be - hold how those a - round us can be chan - nels of your grace.

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Active Prayer of Thanksgiving

Today we continue the practice of bringing food or money for a local pantry as an act of gratitude for the gift of communion. We encourage you to bring non-perishable food items/ toiletries and/or money for food (cash or check) today for our congregation's Pop Up Pantry. To contribute by check, make payable to First Congregational Church, memo line: Pop Up Pantry.

Community Conversation

June 10 & 24, 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Join the conversation about Austen Hartke's "transforming - the Bible and the Lives of Transgender

Christians." More information and signup form available on the church website, www.stockbridgeucc.org.

Christian Education Sunday, June 9

Join us in the worship service for a festive celebration of all we, both children and adults, have learned together since last September. Ever wonder what goes on in the Sunday school room during worship service? We will show you. Please consider becoming one of our volunteer teachers or assistants for the next school year.

Choir Sunday, June 16

We celebrate the music-makers of the church before their summer hiatus.

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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