



*The First Congregational Church
of the United Church of Christ
Stockbridge, Massachusetts*
FATHER'S DAY / MUSIC SUNDAY
June 16, 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. Note – our scripture readings for today were chosen by members of the choir.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, J.S. Bach, arr. by Myra Hess
Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING SONG *Morning Has Broken* See page 5

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rich Geiler

One: Our relationships with our fathers are complicated.

**All: For some of us, our father's love is like God's love –
too deep, too long, too wide, too strong to measure.**

One: Some of our dads are here; some were never here.

**All: For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces our fathers left
behind.**

One: All of us are shaped by the relationship or lack of relationship with our fathers.

**All: On this day when we remember what it means to have a father or be a
father,**

continued

One: We recognize the importance of fathers of all kinds in our communities.

**All: We pledge as a congregation to love and nurture the fathers among us
To help them manifest the love of God in all that they do. Amen.**

~ written by The Rev. Dr. LaGretta Bjorn, pastor of the United Methodist
Church of Spring Valley in New York

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYERS FOR FATHERS written by Safijah Fosua Sarah Conly

CONGREGATIONAL SUNG RESPONSE *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Hymn #276

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.**

Refrain:

**Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

READING Ephesians 5:19 (CEV)

When you meet together, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, as you
praise the Lord with all your heart.

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Music*

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.**

CONTEMPORARY READING

Drea Pecor

Alice Walker, from an interview from *On Being*, 2016

I think each one of us is a walking encyclopedia of all the sounds we've ever heard in our lives. And it takes color, or a representational object, or an occurrence, or remembering the first love, all those things. What they call forth, the kind of communication they call forth is music. Trying to get them in words is loads of fun. It's a marvelous game trying to pin these things down. And the lovely thing with the music is that we don't have to be limited by the way that words are limited by our rational minds.

INTROIT My Life Flows On (*How can I keep from singing?*), by Robert Lowry

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 92:1-2; Psalm 95:1-3; Isaiah 40:29-31

Holland Eaton

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night. (*Psalm 92*)

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. (*Psalm 95*)

He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (*Isaiah 40*)

SERMON

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

This Is My Song

See page 6

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Nobody Shoutin' Like Me*, by John Parker and Heather Sorenson
The Choir with Carolyn Mielke, soloist; 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

PRAYER RESPONSE

Shepherd, lead me in your righteousness,

by Samuel Wesley

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

THANKING THE CHOIR

Peter Frost

SENDING BLESSING *At the End of the Year, by John O'Donohue* Pastor Brent

*HYMN *When in our Music God is Glorified* See page 7

BENEDICTION Pastor Brent

POSTLUDE *An Old Irish Blessing, words, traditional;*

music by Jack Noble White

The FCC Quartet: Amy Shake, Carolyn Mielke, Rich Geiler,

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

Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

Our Postlude today will be performed by our quartet: Amy Shake, Carolyn Mielke, Rich Geiler, and John Demler, with Hui-Mei at the piano.

Our mezzo, Carolyn Mielke will be off to Georgia State's MM program in Choral Conducting in the fall. I would like to wish her a fond farewell and wish her the best of luck going forward.

I hope all four of you have a wonderful summer and thank you for all of the beautiful music you continue to bring us.

Morning Has Broken

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BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

Eleanor Farjeon, 1931

Gaelic melody
Arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

C Am Dm G Dm G C

1. Morn-ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has
2. Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the

Em Am Em F G C Am F C

spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness Of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, Praise ev - ery

Am G C G Am Dm G7 C

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!
gar - den, Sprung in com - plete - ness Where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of
2 My coun-try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun-light

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

These stanzas, published during the period between the two world wars, express a hope for lasting peace among all nations, races, and cultures. Finlandia is derived from a "tone poem" of the same name by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.
Jean Sibelius, 1899
Arr. for The Hymnal, 1933

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

2 Chron. 5:11-14

Fred Pratt Green, 1972

1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, and ad - o -
 2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found a new di -
 3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, in faith and
 4 Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! Let all re -

ra - tion leaves no room for pride, It is as though the whole cre -
 men - sion in the world of sound, As wor - ship moved us to a
 love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, Borne wit - ness to the truth in
 joyce who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to

a - tion cried: Al - le - lu - ia!
 more pro - found Al - le - lu - ia!
 ev - ery tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!
 sing al - ways: Al - le - lu - ia!

Fred Pratt Green wrote this text at the request of British editor and composer John Wilson, who asked for a "festival" hymn to be set with Engelberg. Charles Villiers Stanford originally composed the tune for the text "For All the Saints" in Hymns Ancient and Modern of 1904.

Tune: ENGELBERG 10.10.10.4.
 Charles V. Stanford, 1904

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

Board and Involvement Fair

Today during Coffee Hour

A number of our Boards including

- Christian Education
- Growth and Fellowship
- Mission and Action

need our help. Volunteers for specific events/roles or to serve on are invited to learn more.

Pride Month

As an Open and Affirming (and extravagantly welcoming) Congregation we celebrate our LGBTQ+ Community.

The community conversation about Austen Hartke's *transforming – the Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* is off to a great start. Registration is closed, but if you would like a copy of the book for a future discussion, contact the office.



In our tradition, the Communion Table, Baptismal Font, and the Pulpit are central to our worship life. On the occasion of the 200th Anniversary of the Sanctuary and in honor of their parents Bob and Aleva, the Henderson family made a generous gift to the church to care for those three things. We have started with a full restoration of the pulpit which should take about five weeks. Next, we will create a new

baptismal font that is of heirloom quality, better reflects the worship space, and is moveable. We are working with a local wood worker who has crafted an initial design and will consult with the Boards of Deacons and Trustees before the final design is forwarded to the Church Council. We are deeply grateful for this gift and anticipate formally blessing and installing them as part of the 200th Celebration this Fall.

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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