



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

COMMUNION SUNDAY
August 4, 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 *There is a balm in Gilead* (Spiritual) setting by Peter Frost
Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP Thom Sherman, posted on Lectionary Liturgies
Rich Geiler

One: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you are called:

**All: We cannot do this alone, we dare not try this alone,
so we gather as God's people.**

One: Lead a life worthy of your calling, a life filled with service and meekness.

**All: We come to build up Christ's Body, in humility and gentleness,
with patience and love.**

One: Lead a life which reflects your calling,
that life of peace grounded in the Spirit.

**All: We rejoice in our oneness in Christ;
we would share the grace offered to us.**

One: Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

**All: We gather as God's family at the Table prepared for us,
waiting to be fed by the Bread of life.**

**Forgive our longing for attention and forgive our desire to hide.
Forgive each step we take away from you.**

**“Create in me a clean heart, O God. And renew a right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence. Do not take your Holy Spirit
from me. Restore to me the joy of my salvation, and grant a willing
spirit to sustain me.”** ~ posted by Joanna Harader on Spacious Faith

(Time for silent confession)

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE / PASSING OF THE PEACE Pastor Brent

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

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 *Were You There* (Spiritual)
setting by Peter Frost; Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *Sung Lord’s Prayer* See page 5

ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYERS & UNISON PRAYER *Intercession*
Elizabeth Young

**To God be glory; To the angels honor;
To Satan confusion; To the cross reverence;
To the church exaltation; To the departed quickening;
To the penitent acceptance; To the sick and infirm recovery and healing;
And to the four quarters of the world great peace and tranquility;
And on us who are weak and sinful may the compassion and mercies of
our God come, and may they overshadow us continually. Amen**
from the Old Syriac used by Christians in Turkey, Iran, and South India

PRAYER RESPONSE *Beneath the Cross of Jesus, (Clephane/Maker),
St. Christopher; Hui-Mei Lin, piano*

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *When Jesus Wept*, William Billings, setting by Peter Frost
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

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

*INVITATIONS Pastor Brent

*HYMN *Help Us Accept Each Other* (New Century Hymnal)

1 Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us,
and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted
and meant to love and live.

2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may become.

3 Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance,
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness
and laughter's healing art.

4 God, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for righteousness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
God! Free us, make us one!

*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent

*SENDING SONG *Walking Each Other Home* (chosen by Cathy Clark) See page 6

POSTLUDE *En La Playa* (Op. 71, No.7), by Isaac Albeniz
Elisabeth Bellows, *piano*

Lord's Prayer

Mark Miller

mp
Our God, in heaven, ho - ly is your name, your
reign come, your will done, on earth as in heaven.

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
po- wer, and the glo- ry, for - e - ver. Our God, in
f *mp*
hea- ven, ho - ly is your name, ho - ly is your name.



Walking Each Other Home

words by Ram Dass (used with permission)

music by Kate Munger ©3/2013
kate@thresholdchoir.org

The musical score is written for three voices in 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music. The lyrics are: "We are all just walk-ing each oth-er home. We are all just walk-ing each oth-er home. We are all just walk-ing each oth-er home. We are all just walk-ing each oth-er home." The melody line is marked with "melody".

1 We are all just walk-ing each oth-er home. We are all just

6 We are all just walk-ing each oth-er home. We are all just

11 home. We are all just walk-ing each oth-er home.

Limited permission to distribute this song has been granted to Threshold Choir members for Threshold Choir purposes. 2014.01.03
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Walking Each Other Home ~ notes by Cathy Clark

Walking Each Other Home is one of the songs my Threshold Choir sings at bedside to Hospice patients, but it is equally applicable to the rest of us, no matter where we are on life's journey.

Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

William Billings (1746-1800), *When Jesus Wept* (Offertory), was born in Boston. His wife died in 1795 leaving him with six children under the age of eighteen.

Though Billings' work was very popular during his lifetime, he was quite hampered by the primitive state of copyright laws. Most of his most popular music had been widely reprinted without his permission in other peoples hymnals, virtually copyright-free.

He died in Boston, in poverty, at the age of 53.

His funeral was announced in the Columbian Centinel as follows: *Died- Mr. William Billings, the celebrated music composer. His funeral will be tomorrow at 4 o'clock, PM from the house of Mrs. Amos Penniman, in Chamber-street, West-Boston.*

For a long time after his death his music was almost completely neglected. Most of the songs ended up being preserved in the Sacred Harp singing traditions in the South.

In the latter half of the twentieth century the music of William Billings enjoyed a revival with much of his music being republished under his name.

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.

Church Picnic - August 18

The annual Church Picnic is once again at idyllic Mohawk Lake in Stockbridge. Dig out your swimsuit and dust off your favorite side dish recipe. Rain date is August 25.

Summer Fair - August 10

The Service League invites you to the Summer Fair on Saturday, from 10:00 to 1:00. Crafts & treasures galore!

Rally Day - September 8

We start the new program year for the church! The Choir will be up in the loft, Sunday programs for children resume, adult studies launch, and more. It is a day where we share the adventures of our Sunday even as we set off on new adventures together as a church.

How Firm a Foundation: A History of the First Congregational Church is rolling off the presses soon. Pre-orders welcomed today. Hard cover \$30; soft cover \$24 - cash/check/Venmo.

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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