

The First Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ Stockbridge, Massachusetts SUNDAY WORSHIP August 18, 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 On Wings of Song, F. Mendelssohn, arr. by Lani Smith

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING PRAYER "That we may change" Walter Brueggemann – Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth

*GATHERING SONG Sanctuary

*CALL TO WORSHIP The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Ronnie Cunningham

See page 4

One: In deep gratitude we come to worship God.

All: We recognize God as the source of all goodness.

One: All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:

All: love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness are all of God.

One: We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.

All: We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN What do you Want

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.

*HYMN

When in Our Music God is Glorified See pew hymnal #264

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 5:15-20 *Filled with the Spirit* Gary Cilley Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON	Singing and Giving Thanks	Pastor Brent
*HYMN	Beneath the Cross of Jesus	See pew hymnal #92

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY Precious Lord, Take My Hand, G. Allen/T.A. Dorsey Peter Frost, tenor, Hui-Mei Lin, piano

*DOXOLOGY

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Pastor Brent

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.

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

PRAYER RESPONSE

God Be with You Till We Meet Again J.E. Rankin/R.V. Williams; Amy Shake, soprano

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING AND SENDING FOR PETER AND FIMI Ron Hanft, Elisabeth Bellows, Drea Pecor, Pastor Brent

*Unison Prayer of Blessing, adapted from the UCC Book of Worship God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. Pour out your care upon Peter and Fimi that their journey may be blessed with grace and peace. We thank you for the time we shared with them and the gifts of beauty and meaning they brought to our lives. Help us to cherish the joys we found together and help us all to let go of the hurts or disappointments that come with all human relationships. Guide us all as we move in new directions until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other. We pray in the name of Jesus our source and our destination. Amen

*INVITATIONS

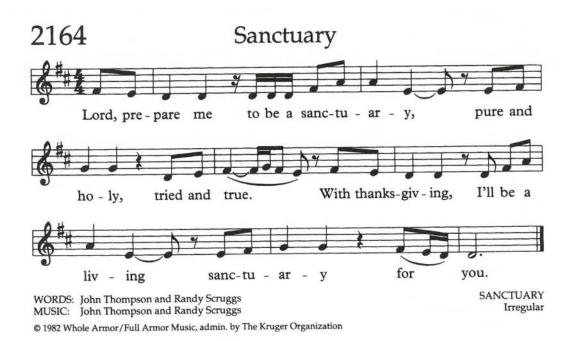
*HYMN	Praise Ye ti	he Lord, the Almighty	See pew hymnal #482	
*BENEDICTION			Pastor Brent	
BENEDICTION RESPONSE The Lo		U	Lord bless you and keep you, John Rutter Amy Shake, soprano; Hui-Mei Lin, piano	

POSTLUDE Improvisation on Go Down Moses (Spiritual), Peter Frost

Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

Precious Lord, Take My Hand, George N. Allen 1844, Arr. Thomas A. Dorsey, 1938 Though the tune is often credited to Thomas A. Dorsey, the famous American Jazz musician, composer, and Christian evangelist, it is believed that Dorsey wrote this tune heavily influenced by the 1844 tune "Maitland" by George N. Allen. Dorsey wrote over 3000 tunes with about a third of them written in the gospel style. He gained fame accompanying the famous blues singer Ma Rainey. He served as the music director at Chicago's Pilgrim Baptist Church for 50 years. His church music and style was often condemned as it included shouting, clapping, and stomping during the services.

Precious Lord was known to be Dr. Martin Luther King's favorite song. It gained greater fame when Dr. King asked Mahalia Jackson to sing it at his rallies to inspire the crowd. At his request, she sang it at his funeral in April of 1968.



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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