



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

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**  
*October 6, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.*

A reminder: children are invited to Sunday School starting at 10:00 a.m. and will come to worship after the offering. Nursery care is available during the worship service; please ask an usher.

Note: We will lift prayers of joy and concern this morning in worship. If you would prefer to submit a prayer to be read, please write it on one of the prayer slips in the folders in each pew and return it to the prayer box in the Narthex or give it to a Deacon before our prayer time.

## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

GATHERING MUSIC      Prelude and Fugue in C from The Well Tempered  
Clavier by J.S. Bach      Tracy Wilson

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME      Pastor Brent Damrow

## **GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

\*HYMN      *Break Thou the Bread of Life*      See page 7

\*CALL TO WORSHIP      Thom Sherman      David Anderegg

One: Welcome to this place: where children and seasoned citizens sit side by side,

**All: where heaven and earth embrace in peace, where God has been, is, and always will be.**

One: Welcome to this place, as we gather with all of God's children: where we find God's love,

continued

**All: where we hear the tender voice of Jesus, where the Spirit teaches us new songs.**

One: Welcome to this place, where all is made ready by our God: where we bring our hunger, and find food;

**All: where we our brokenness, and find healing; where we bring our very selves, and find embrace.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION / WORDS OF ASSURANCE

\*SHARING OF THE PEACE

\*HYMN

*I Come with Joy*

See page 8

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 32:1-14

Liza Catino

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, 'Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' Aaron said to them, 'Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.' So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.' They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"' The Lord said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.'

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, 'O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of

the earth"? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, "I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever." ' And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

SERMON                      *Patience, Remembrance, and Change*                      Pastor Brent

\*HYMN                      *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*                      See page 9

MOMENT FOR ENGAGEMENT    *Neighbors in Need*                      Liza Catino

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

SILENT PRAYERS / READING OF PRAYER SLIPS                      Drea Pecor

UNISON PRAYER FOR WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, by Thom Shuman

**We will not find that needed justice in our apathy; we will not find that elusive wholeness with our quarreling; we will not find our hoped for unity with our doctrines; we will not find our misplaced love with our hating; we will not find that rest we crave in our overflowing planners; we will not find the peace you offer in our well nursed grudges.**

**But we will find you in the brokenness of the Bread and in the breaking of our hearts; we will find you when we drain the Cup, refill it with our gifts, and offer it to a little child; we will find you when we squeeze closer together, making room at the Table for all your people.**

**Help us to find you, God in Community, Holy in One.**

PRAYER RESPONSE                      *Amen*, by David Anderegg

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM    *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

\*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

## GATHERING AT THE TABLE

INVITATION

Pastor Brent

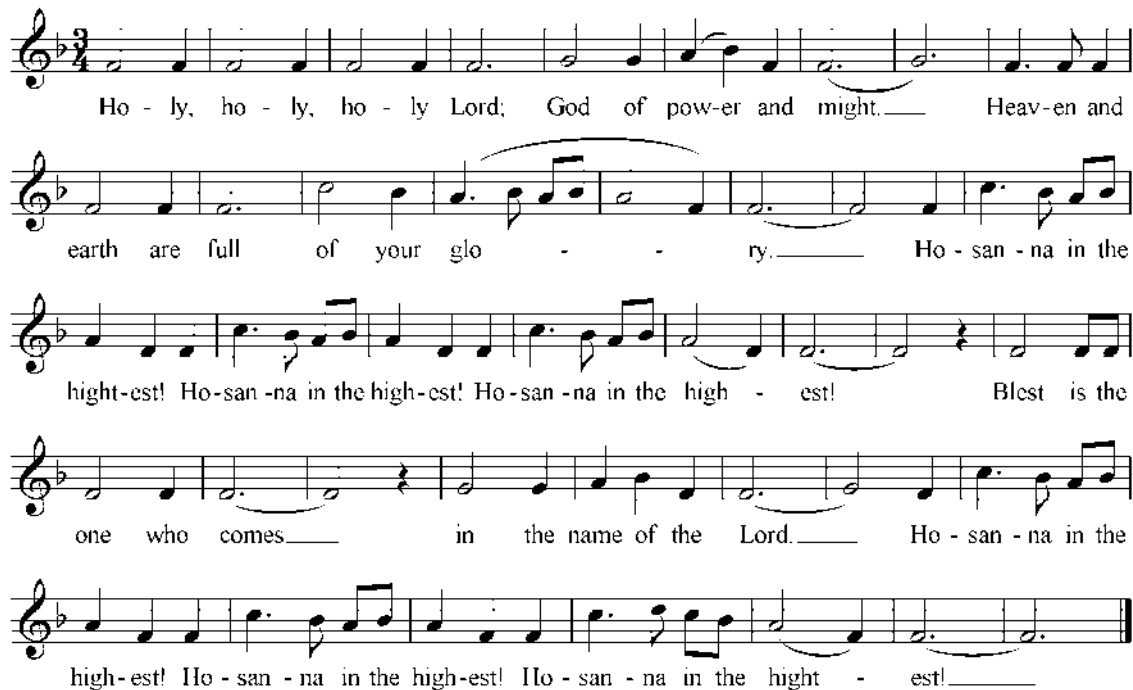
SUNG COMMUNION LITURGY

by Mark Miller

One All One  
May God be with you. And al - so with you. Lift  
All One  
up your hearts. We lift them up to our God. Let us give  
All  
thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy,  
for the gift of creation  
the beauty and bounty of the earth  
and for the vision and promise of the day  
when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none...  
...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven  
and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to  
the glory of your name:

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of pow-er and might. Heav-en and  
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high-est! Ho-san -na in the high-est! Ho-san -na in the high - est! Blest is the  
one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high-est! Ho - san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Pastor: You are indeed holy O God of Majesty and blessed is your Son, Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Who came as the light of all people.  
The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it...  
...Together as one we proclaim the great mystery of our faith.

## Memorial Acclamation



Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the  
high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Pastor: We remember the great story of this table  
 That on the night where Jesus gave himself for us  
 He gathered his disciples, his chosen family around him  
 For the feast of the Passover...  
 ...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

### The Great Amen

A - men. A - men. A - - - men. —  
 — Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - na in the  
 high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! —

SHARING THE FEAST

Pastor Brent

SUNG PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

See page 10

ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*We invite you to support our neighbors in need. This month we are supporting the People's Pantry.*

## GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent

\*SENDING SONG

*Song of Hope*

See page 11

(John Demler will sing the verse in Spanish first. The congregation is invited to sing the verse in English following.)

POSTLUDE Preludio in C from 18 Little Preludes and Fugues by J.S. Bach

Tracy Wilson

## 329

## Break Thou the Bread of Life

BREAD OF LIFE 6.4.6.4 D

Mary Ann Lathbury, 1877; alt.

William Fisk Sherwin, 1877; alt.

1. Break Thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me,  
2. Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, Now un - to me,

As Thou didst break the loaves Be - side the sea;  
As Thou didst bless the bread By Gal - i - lee;

Be - yond the sa - cred page I seek Thee, Lord;  
Then shall all bond - age cease, All fet - ters fall;

My spir - it pants for Thee, O liv - ing Word!  
And I shall find my peace, My all in all.

*Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs (1990)*

# I Come with Joy

507

DOVE OF PEACE 8.6.8.6.6

American folk melody

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1977

Arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1977

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord, For - giv - en, loved, and  
 2. I come with Chris - tians far and near To find, as all are  
 3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, Each proud di - vi - sion  
 4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His pres - ence, al - ways  
 5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, We'll go our dif - ferent

free, In awe and won - der to re - call His  
 fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love In  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, And  
 near, Is in such friend - ship bet - ter known: We  
 ways, And as His peo - ple in the world, We'll

life laid down for me, His life laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, In Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 stran - gers now are friends, And stran - gers now are friends.  
 see and praise Him here, We see and praise Him here.  
 live and speak His praise, We'll live and speak His praise.

Alternate tune: LAND OF REST, 522


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ST. DENIO

Welsh Melody,  
adapted 1839

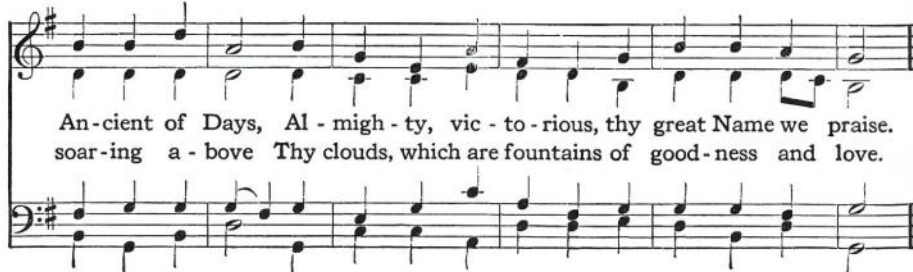
*In moderate time*



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise, In light in - ac -  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light, Nor want - ing, nor



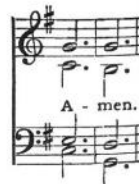
ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the  
wast - ing, thou rul - est in might; Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high



An - cient of Days, Al - migh - ty, vic - to - rious, thy great Name we praise.  
soar - ing a - bove Thy clouds, which are fountains of good - ness and love.

3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,  
Then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render: O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee. Amen.



A - men.

WALTER CHALMERS SMITH, 1867, *alt.*

By permission of the representatives of the late W. Chalmers Smith and the Oxford University Press

# 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  
heaven, ho - ly is your name, ho - ly is your name.

# Song of Hope

(Canto de Esperanza)

2186



May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, \_ fill - ing all our  
*¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! \_ Al mun - do en*



lives with love and joy and peace. \_ May the God of jus - tice speed us  
*cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. \_ Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -*



on our way, \_ bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race. \_  
*nos tu luz, \_ luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad. \_*

## Refrain



\_ Pray - ing, let us work for peace; \_ sing - ing,  
\_ O - re - mos por la paz, \_ can - te -



share our joy with all; \_ work - ing for a  
*mos de tu a - mor. \_ Lu - che - mos*



world that's new, \_ faith - ful when we hear Christ's call. \_  
*por la paz, \_ fie - les a ti, Se - ñor. \_*

WORDS: Alvin Schutmaat  
MUSIC: Argentine folk melody

ARGENTINA  
Irregular with Refrain  
*The Faith We Sing (2000)*

**Thank you** to all who have helped with today's service, including Deacons David Anderegg, Gary Cilley, and Drea Pecor; reader Liza Catino; fellowship Charlotte Rodgers and Jeremy Ridenour; greeter Don Rodgers; storytellers Kim Ruffing and Ashley Collins. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream and Scarlett Ritcher is in the nursery.

## Active Prayer of Thanksgiving

Today we continue the practice of bringing food or money for a local pantry as an act of gratitude after receiving communion. We encourage you to bring non-perishable food and/

or money for food today for the People's Pantry, Great Barrington. To contribute by check, make it payable to First Congregational Church, memo line: People's Pantry. To contribute by Venmo: FCC Stockbridge, "what's this for line": People's Pantry.



## Music Notes ~ Tracy Wilson

The Prelude and Fugue in C are the first compositions in The Well Tempered Clavier by J.S. Bach, which is a set of 24 pieces (pairing a prelude and fugue) in all the major and minor keys, assembled as a collection in 1722. Well tempered (or "good temperament") refers to a tuning system used during that time period. We now use the A=440 Hz, meaning the musical note A is vibrating at 440 cycles per second.

Clavier ("keyboard") is the generic name for a variety of keyboards, most typically harpsichord or clavichord, or even organ.

The postlude is from a collection of Little Preludes and Fugues, also by J.S. Bach, and also in C. The offertory anthem is one of my favorite selections for Communion Sunday, written by American organist Harold Friedell (1905-1958) who taught at Juilliard and Union Seminary.

*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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