

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

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 27, 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

PRELUDE Preludes from Opus 28, Frederic Chopin Tracy Wilson

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME Re

Rev. Brent Damrow

#### **GATHERING IN WORSHIP**

\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

David Anderegg

by the Rev. Dr. Letty Russell, posted on the *Presbyterian Promise* website.

Gather us together this Reformation Sunday, O God, that we may celebrate the witness of our forefathers and foremothers and the courage that gave birth to the Reformation. Teach us how to honor the saints of God in ages past as well as in our present days. May the conviction of your grace written on their hearts be one that forms our own faith. Inspire us in the continuing reformation of the church and be present to us your in word and sacrament. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

\*HYMN

A Mighty Fortress is our God, vss. 1 & 2

See page 5

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elizabeth Young

One: God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

All: So we will not fear, even if the earth shakes, even if our certainties wobble.

One: Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!

All: The word made flesh is here among us; we will follow Him, the one through whom we were formed and by whose way we will be re-formed.

\*HYMN

A Mighty Fortress is our God, vss. 3 & 4

See page 5

CONTEMPORARY READING Reinhold Niebuhr

Sarah Conly

Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint. Therefore, we must be saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION / WORDS OF ASSURANCE

\*SHARING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO THE OFFERING

**OFFERTORY** 

Preludes from Opus 28, Frederic Chopin

\*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.

\*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

### THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Kings 5:1-5, 8:27-30, 41-43

Rich Geiler

Hannah Fries

Now King Hiram of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father; for Hiram had always been a friend to David. Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, 'You know that my father David could not build a house for the name of the Lord his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet. But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. So I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord said to my father David, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name."

'But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Have regard to your servant's prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, "My name shall be there", that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays towards this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive. 'Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name — for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm – when a foreigner comes and prays towards this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling-place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

SERMON This Place Pastor Brent

\*HYMN They Did Not Build in Vain See page 6

MOMENT FOR ENGAGEMENT Stewardship

### SUNG RESPONSE (please remain seated)

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples, verse 3

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream, With righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem. For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease, A world that was created for a harmony of peace.

#### **OFFERING OURSELVES**

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS (must be submitted in advance)

PRAYER RESPONSE Amen Danish Amen

TIME WITH CHILDREN

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.

### GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

**INVITATIONS** 

\*HYMN Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation See page 7

\*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent

SENDING SONG Love Is Love Is Love Is Love Kids Choir

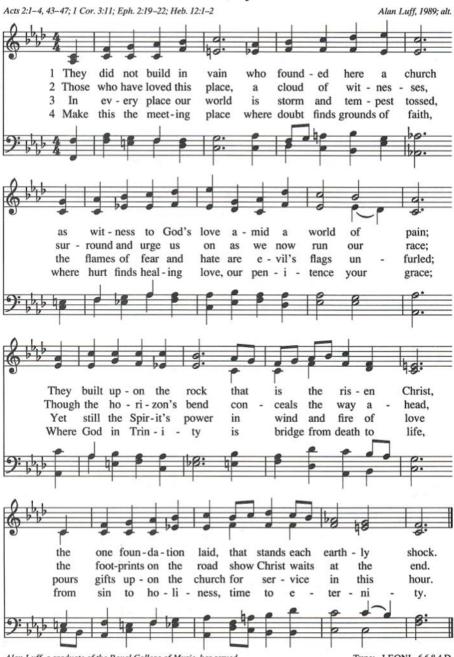
Words compiled by Abbie Betinis; Music by Abbie Betinis

POSTLUDE A Mighty Fortress, arr. Wilbur Held

**Thank you** to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons David Anderegg, Gary Cilley, Sarah Conly, Elizabeth Young; reader Rich Geiler; fellowship: the Board of Trustees; greeter Carl Bradford; storytellers Elisabeth Bellows and Jon Geldert. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream and Scarlett Ritcher is in the nursery.

EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7





Alan Luff, a graduate of the Royal College of Music, has served the Anglican Church as parish priest, precentor of Westminster Abbey, and canon of Birmingham Cathedral. He is also known as the author of Welsh Hymns and Their Tunes (1990). Tune: LEONI 6.6.8.4.D. Traditional Yigdal melody Adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770

# Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-7 Latin, 6th-8th century Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. St. 3 adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992 1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and cor - ner-stone, To this tem-ple, where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, to - day! ser - vants' vis - ion, Here re-new your that by faith they may at - tain chos - en of our God and pre-cious, bind - ing all the Church in one; With your con-stant, lov - ing kind-ness hear your peo - ple as they pray. newed com-pas-sion, strength to com-fort peace and hope, re those in pain, Ho - ly Zi - on's help for-ev - er, and our con - fi dence a - lone. Give your full - est ben - e-dic-tion: grace to fol - low Christ the Way. Tears and grief trans-formed to glad-ness in your ev - er last - ing reign.

The hymn has its origins in an early Latin poem, Urbs beata Jerusalem, based on passages from Ephesians, 1 Peter, and Revelation. "Holy Zion" refers to the church transcendent, built of "living stones"—the saints of God.

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Henry T. Smart, 1867

Alternate tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY

# Lake Mahkeenac Radio Theater November 2: a night of storytelling, singing, all-around merriment!

Written and hosted by David Anderegg, the evening will feature illustrious musicians and actors. Starts at 6:00pm in the sanctuary. Suggested donation: \$25.

Don't come empty handed—enter the prestigious **Pro-Am Pie Contest**. For more information, go to the church's website.

## **Election Day**

The church will open up on Election
Day to allow people who would
like to pray or find a sense of peace
to do so in our beautiful and
venerable sanctuary finishing with
a prayer service at 7:00 PM.

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Love Is Love is taken from the Justice Choir Songbook, with works composed and written by people from across this land. It was curated and co-edited by Abbie Betinis, Ahmed Anzaldua, and Tesfa Wondermagegnehu. The purpose of the Songbook is to help us sing toward the time when all will live in a just, peaceful, and sustainable world. The Songbook selections are free to use as we wish, as long as we acknowledge the copyright licenses. Here they are!



Welcome! We are an Open and Affirming Church 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.

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