



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

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
November 3, 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, 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 Romance, Opus 118, No. 5, Brahms
Intermezzo, Opus 118, No. 2, Brahms Tracy Wilson, *piano*

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME The Rev. Dr. Richard Floyd

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

*SUNG PRAYER OF INVOCATION (congregation) *Be Present at Our Table Lord*

Be present at our table, Lord.

Be here and every where adored.

These mercies bless; and grant that we

May feast in Paradise with Thee. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Isaiah 25:6-9)

Drea Pecor

One: Hurricanes and floods and environmental havoc;

All: drones and bombings and handguns;

One: cancer and heart disease and bodies shutting down;

All: poverty and injustice and oppression.

One: The ways of death in this world are many.

All: The words of death surround us.

continued

One: The fear of death envelopes us.

All: But we come now to hear a different Word,

One: a true Word

All: a life-giving Word.

One: On All Saints Sunday, we are here on Isaiah's mountain

All: where tears are wiped away,

One: where a banquet table has been set,

All: where death has been swallowed up forever.

One: We do not fully understand it.

All: We may not fully believe it.

One: And yet here it is: the power of Christ's life within us and among us.

All: So let us be glad and rejoice in the life offered in this very moment!

~ written by Joanna Harader, posted on her *Spacious Faith* blog.

*HYMN

Be Still My Soul

See pages 6-7

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Floyd

Saving God, we are your people yet the world cannot see this.

We are your children, and fail to live in peace.

We are your voices and choose to be silent.

We are your hands and feet and walk a different road.

Forgive us, for ignoring your love,

for brushing aside your hand and trusting our own wisdom.

Enable us to worship you in spirit and in truth,

to bring to you our joyful songs in the everyday moments of our lives;

that your name might be glorified through our words and lives. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Floyd

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Floyd

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

CONTEMPORARY READING by Seamus Heaney

Liza Catino

When all the others were away at Mass

I was all hers as we peeled potatoes.

They broke the silence, let fall one by one
Like solder weeping off the soldering iron:
Cold comforts set between us, things to share
Gleaming in a bucket of clean water.
And again let fall. Little pleasant splashes
From each other's work would bring us to our senses.
So while the parish priest at her bedside
Went hammer and tongs at the prayers for the dying
And some were responding and some crying
I remembered her head bent towards my head,
Her breath in mine, our fluent dipping knives –
Never closer the whole rest of our lives.

SOLO *The Call*, R. Vaughan Williams John Demler, *baritone*
(During the Solo and the remaining hymns you are welcome to bring your photo to place in the windows and to light candles in memory of those you remember today).

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 25:6-9 Susan Moor

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death for ever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run

with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

SERMON *So Great a Cloud of Witnesses* Rev. Floyd

*HYMN *The Church's One Foundation* See page 8

OFFERING OURSELVES

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS (as provided on prayer slips) Gary Cilley

ALL SAINTS PRAYER Rev. Floyd

One: For all the saints who went before us
who have spoken to our hearts and touched us with your fire,

All: we praise you, O God.

One: For all the saints who live beside us
whose weaknesses and strengths are woven with our own,

All: we praise you, O God.

One: For all the saints who live beyond us
who challenge us to change the world with them,

All: we praise you, O God.

One: Send your love and grace to meet our needs and to strengthen our
resolve to live according to your desires.

~ written by Janet Morley. Posted on RevGalBlogPal's *A Place for Prayer*.

PRAYER RESPONSE *Amen*, by David Anderegg

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING Rev. Floyd

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *I Believe*, Mark Miller Amy Shake, *soprano*, and choir

*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

Rev. Floyd

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Floyd and Rev. Linda Hoddy

SHARING THE STORY AND BLESSING THE FEAST

We will be serving communion in the pews.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Sung Lord's Prayer

See insert

Active Prayer of Thanksgiving

We invite you to support our neighbors in need. This month we are supporting the Pop-Up Pantry. Tubs are available for any food items you have brought.

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

*HYMN

For All the Saints vss. 1, 4, & 5

See insert

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Floyd

POSTLUDE

Nimrod, by Edward Elgar, arr. Percy Grainger

Music Notes ~ Tracy Wilson

The Call is from a collection entitled *Five Mystical Songs*, with music by Ralph Vaughan Williams and poems by George Herbert, written and premiered in 1911. The postlude, *Nimrod*, is the name given to the ninth and best-known variation in Edgar Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, an orchestral work of 14 variations on an original theme, composed between 1898 and 1899. *Nimrod* (also spelled *Nemrod*) was a legendary biblical figure. In the classical orchestral world, this variation is played by the orchestra in recognition of a fallen musician or an important figure. I love this variation and arrangement for piano by Percy Grainger so I selected this for today remembering some beautiful souls in my life, and as you reflect on those souls in your lives, who have gone before us.

Election Day Prayer

On Election Day, we invite you to come to the sanctuary so that you

might bathe the day in quiet prayer.

The sanctuary will be open 7:00am – 7:00pm; worship service at 7:00pm.

Ps. 37:7; Ps. 46:10; 1 Tim. 4:10

Katharina von Schlegel, 1752
Transl. Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1855; alt.

1 Be still, my soul: for God is on your side; bear pa-tient-
2 Be still, my soul: for God will un-der-take to guide in
3 Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here when we shall

ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to
fu-ture days as in the past. Your hope, your con-fi-
be with God whom we a-dore, with dis-ap-point-ment

or-der and pro-vide; in ev-ery change God
dence let noth-ing shake; all now mys-te-ri-ous
gone, no grief nor fear, sor-row re-placed with

faith-ful will re-main. Be still, my soul: your best e-ter-nal
shall be clear at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still
joy for-ev-er-more. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are



The New Century Hymnal (1995)



Thank you to all who have helped with today's service, including Deacons Gary Cilley and Drea Pecor; readers Liza Catino and Susan Moor; usher Jo Ann Levitt; fellowship Donna Jacobs and Tom Ruffing; storytellers Vicky Cooper and Ted Randolph. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream and Scarlett Ritcher and Rae Geddes are staffing the nursery.

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.

(413) 298-3137 | office@stockbridgeucc.org | stockbridgeucc.org

All hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723107

442

The Church's One Foundation

Samuel John Stone, 1866; alt.

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

1. The church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
 2. E - lect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth,
 3. Though with a scornful wonder This world sees her oppressed,
 4. Mid toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war,

She is His new creation By water and the word;
 Her charter of salvation One Lord, one faith, one birth;
 By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
 She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore;

From heaven He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
 One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
 Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up: "How long?"
 Till with the vision glorious Her long - ing eyes are blest,

With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
 And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.
 And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.
 And the great church victorious Shall be the church at rest.

5. Yet she on earth has union
 With God the Three in One,
 And mystic sweet communion
 With those whose rest is won:

O happy ones and holy!
 Lord, give us grace that we,
 Like them, the meek and lowly,
 May live eternally.