



The First Congregational Church, UCC

Stockbridge, Massachusetts

SUNDAY WORSHIP

February 16, 2025 10:00a.m.

Children are invited to Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. returning to worship for Joys and Concerns. Nursery care is available during worship; please ask an usher. Prayers to be lifted can given to a deacon before worship.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC Spirituals, arr. Burleigh Tracy Wilson, piano
I Walk a Stranger on this Land spiritual, arr. Wood Choir; Amy Shake, *flute*

WELCOME AND FRAMING WORDS Elizabeth Young

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

*INTROIT *In Christ There is No East or West, vs. 3* See page 5

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 146:5-10) Gary Cilley

ONE: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

ALL: **whose hope is in the Almighty God,**

ONE: who made heaven and earth,

ALL: **the sea, and all that is in them:**

ONE: who keeps faith forever;

ALL: **who executes justice for the oppressed;**

ONE: who gives food to the hungry. God sets the prisoners free;

ALL: **God opens the eyes of the blind.**

ONE: God lifts up those who are bowed down;

ALL: **God loves the righteous.**

ONE: God watches over the strangers;

ALL: **God upholds the orphan and the widow,**

ONE: but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.

ALL: **God will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Let us praise God!**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

CONTEMPORARY READING "Wild Faith"

Elizabeth Young

Mine is not the reasoned faith of philosophers,
nor measured faith of astronomers;
not the doubtful faith of warriors,
nor faint faith of the wounded.

No, mine is the wild faith,
unkempt and throbbing, that sustains
dancers, poets and painters,
some prisoners and the poor.

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 7:18-35

Rich Geiler

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' When the men had come to him, they said, 'John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"' Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who were blind. And he answered them, 'Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who put on fine clothing and live in luxury are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John; yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.' (And all the people who heard this, including the tax-collectors, acknowledged the justice of God, because they had

been baptized with John's baptism. But by refusing to be baptized by him, the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves.)

'To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the market-place and calling to one another,

"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not weep."

For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children.'

SERMON *Who IS Jesus?* Rev. Hoddy

*HYMN *Guide My Feet* See page 7

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO PRAYER *Tis Me, O Lord* Spiritual, arr. Burleigh Amy Shake

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE *Surrender* Van De Venter / Weeden Choir

CALL TO THE OFFERING Elizabeth Young

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Ride On, King Jesus*, arr. DeCormier
Choir, Rich Geiler

*DOXOLOGY

Thomas Ken, 1637-1711 William Farley Smith, 1941-

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav - en - ly host; Praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

Elizabeth Young

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Elizabeth Young

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

MOMENT FOR MISSION Warm Up the Winter, Anna Smith & Tristan Osgood

*INVITATIONS

Elizabeth Young

*HYMN

Christ of the Upward Way

Pew hymnal #344

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Hoddy

POSTLUDE

Oh, didn't it Rain, arr. Burleigh

John Demler

In Christ There is No East or West, vs. 3

1. In Christ there is no east or west, In Him no south or north;
2. In Christ shall true hearts ev-ery-where Their high com-mu-nion find;
3. Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, What-e'er your race may be.
4. In Christ now meet both east and west, In Him meet south and north;

But one great fel-low-ship of love Through-out the whole wide earth.
His ser-vice is the gold-en cord Close-bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God Are sure-ly kin to me.
All Christ-ly souls are one in Him Through-out the whole wide earth.

The image shows a musical score for a four-part setting of the hymn 'In Christ There is No East or West'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The first system contains four numbered verses of lyrics. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn. The music is written in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor).

Music Notes ~ Tracy Wilson

Today we will be showcasing more Burleigh spirituals and other selections by our section leaders and choir members, to continue celebrating Black History Month. Our Introit, *In Christ There is No East or West*, is named MCKEE for one of Burleigh's favorite rectors at Saint George's Episcopal Church in NYC.

O Christ Jesus, Sent from Heaven

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James W. Crawford, 1994

John 17:17-23

1 O Christ Je - sus, sent from heav-en, Love E - ter - nal,
2 O Christ Je - sus, our sal - va - tion, Shep-herd kind, life's
3 O Christ Je - sus, Fa - ther - Moth-er, Spir - it, Tri - une
4 O Christ Je - sus, preached down a - ges, in the womb of

cru - ci - fied, wel - come Sav - ior, mis - sion bear - ing,
Bread and Wine, Word Made Flesh, God's Bless - ed Ser - vant,
Source of all, claim our wound-ed, halt - ing wit - ness;
God be - gun, pray re - store your bro - ken Bod - y,

dwell a - mong us, now re - side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 wash - ing feet shows your de - sign. Al - le - lu - ia!
 we sur - ren - der to your thrall. Al - le - lu - ia!
 born when Cal - vary's work was done. Al - le - lu - ia!

Way of An - guish, sow your peace, with us a - bide.
Liv - ing Wa - ter, slake our hearts with grace di - vine.
Truth In - car - nate, stir us with your ser - vant call.
Life for Oth - ers, hear our plea: "May all be one!"

James W. Crawford served as minister of the Old South Church in Boston for more than twenty years. His text uses imagery from the Gospel of John to indicate that the church's unity lies in the risk and hope of loving service.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry Purcell, c. 1680
Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842
Alternate tune: REGENT SQUARE

Guide My Feet

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GUIDE MY FEET 8.8.8.10

African-American spiritual

African-American spiritual
Harm. Wendell Whalum (1932-1987)

1. Guide my feet
2. Hold my hand while I run this race,
3. Stand by me
4. I'm Your child

yes, my Lord!

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are aligned with the notes.

Guide my feet
Hold my hand while I run this race,
Stand by me
I'm Your child

yes, my Lord!

The second system continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are repeated for the second and third verses.

Guide my feet
Hold my hand while I run this race, For I
Stand by me
I'm Your child

The third system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are repeated for the fourth verse, with the addition of 'For I' at the end of the line.

don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

The fourth system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are repeated for the fifth verse, with the addition of '(race in vain!)' at the end of the line.

5. Search my heart . . .

6. Guide my feet . . .

Music: Harmonization © by the estate of Wendell Whalum. Used by permission.

Thank you to all who helped with today's service, including the Rev Linda Hoddy; Deacons Gary Cilley, Elizabeth Young, and Helen McCormick; reader Rich Geiler; storytellers Vicky Cooper and Hannah Fries. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream and Scarlett Ritcher and Rae Geddes are in the nursery.

Lenten Study: Understanding the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Rick Floyd and Jeremy Ridenour are offering a six-week course during Lent that will provide an overview of the doctrine of the atonement. Atonement theories provide a narrative to understand how the death and resurrection of Jesus saves us from sin,

death, and evil. The group will read portions of Rev. Floyd's book *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross: Reflections on the Atonement*. The group will meet for six consecutive Thursdays throughout the season of Lent: March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3 and 10, 6:00-7:00 pm at the church. Contact the office for more info.

Applause is a wonderful reaction to events that bring us joy, and is often given in recognition of being entertained. In church, where we are worshipping God, however, applause can be a distraction from the celebration of the Holy Spirit. To express appreciation for music that is part of worship, we ask that applause be saved until after the postlude (when worship is over).

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 worshipping 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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