

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC OF STOCKBRIDGE
4 MAIN STREET, STOCKBRIDGE, MA 01262**

ORGAN REDEDICATION CONCERT

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2:00 PM

**TO CELEBRATE THE RENOVATIONS OF ITS HISTORIC 1865
JOHNSON ORGAN, OPUS 183**



FEATURING CONCERT ORGANISTS:

TIM PYPER, EDWIN LAWRENCE & BRIAN HOFFMAN

Works of J S Bach, Mendelssohn, Buck & compositions by our guest organists

NICK REID, SPECIAL GUEST

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FREE WILL OFFERING. RECEPTION TO FOLLOW THE CONCERT



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH** Stockbridge, Massachusetts

Organ Rededication Concert Program

Saturday, March 1, 2025

2:00 PM

Gathering Music: Sound the Trumpet! Henry Purcell
Rich Geiler, tenor; John Demler, bass; Tracy Wilson, organ

Welcome by Rev. Brent Damrow

Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr J.S. Bach
Toccata on *Lobe den Herren* (Praise to the Lord) Brian Hoffman

*Congregational Hymn: *Praise to the Lord* (see p. 4)
Brian Hoffman

History of our 1865 Johnson Organ, Opus 183 by Ron Hanft

Sonata No. 2 Felix Mendelssohn

Grave-Adagio

Allegro maestoso e vivace

Fuga: Allegro moderato

*Congregational Hymn: *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* (see p. 5)
Tim Pyper

Overview of recent renovations and restoration by Ed Lawrence

Free will offering (to be used toward the organ restoration fund)
Improvisations on *Hyfrydol* and *Nettleton* by **Nick Reid**

Introduction of organ restoration team by Tracy Wilson

Fantasy on Ein Feste Burg John Knowles Paine
Variations on the Star Spangled Banner arr. Dudley Buck

*Congregational Hymn: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (see p. 6)
Ed Lawrence

Rededication of the organ by Rev. Brent Damrow

*Congregational Hymn: *When in Our Music God is Glorified* (see p. 7)

Reception in the Jonathan Edwards Room following the concert

*Please stand if you are able.

Brian Hoffman is a concert organist whose numerous performances include solo recitals at St. Patrick's Cathedral NYC, Methuen Memorial Music Hall, and on the world's largest church organ at West Point Cadet Chapel. As a composer, he has written numerous works for choir, organ, and various ensembles. As a recording artist, he has recorded his original compositions, as well as organ works of J.S. Bach and Cesar Franck. His ongoing project, begun during the pandemic of 2020, is the recordings of the complete organ works of J.S. Bach on organs from around the world via the Hauptwerk program. Brian served as concert organist for the Stockbridge Festival Chorus for a number of years in the early 2000s.

Tim Pyper is Lecturer in Music/College Organist at Williams College and Director of Music at St. John's, Williamstown. Prior to this, he was Director of Music at the Church of the Holy Apostles, New York City (2017-2023) and Director of Music at the Cathedral Church of the Redeemer, Calgary (2010-2015). Originally from Canada, he trained at the Eastman School of Music (B.M., M.M., Performer's Certificate) and at Cornell University (D.M.A.). Pyper is also an AmSAT-certified instructor of the Alexander Technique and regularly gives workshops on optimal ergonomic functioning for musicians.

Edwin Lawrence enjoys a career as a performer on piano, organ and harpsichord and as a conductor and composer. He recently retired as Minister of Music for the First Congregational Church, UCC of Williamstown MA. He is an Artist Associate at Williams College. Mr. Lawrence served as Music Director for the Bennington County Choral Society for more than 38 seasons. As a producer for Dorian Recordings, he was directly involved with more than 20 recording projects. In 1976, he was one of the composers chosen to represent Vermont in the Bicentennial Parade of American music in the nation's capital. Still in the era of the LP, he recorded "Organ Music from Hildene" at Robert Todd Lincoln's Manchester, VT home. Lawrence is a founding member of the Consortium of Vermont Composers and has served as a guest conductor of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra. In 1990, he received a Citation of Merit from the Vermont Council of the Arts for his contributions to the vitality of the arts in the Green Mountain State. Lawrence is currently the concert organist for the Stockbridge Festival Chorus.

Nick Reid works for Czelusniak et Dugal and was very involved in the restoration of our organ. He is a pianist by trade and has been playing since the age of 3. He is largely a self taught organist who made his way to the Worthington church (and served for 15 years) through his years of working and tuning a number of pianos in his nearby community. The Williamsburg Congregational Church offered Nick a position during the COVID shutdown where he performed his own compositions and improvisations, and where he currently serves as organist and pianist since 2023. Nick was very excited to participate in our organ's restoration as the instrument at the Williamsburg church is only ONE opus ahead of the Stockbridge organ. They are, as he says, "sisters"!

Praise to the Lord

Descant



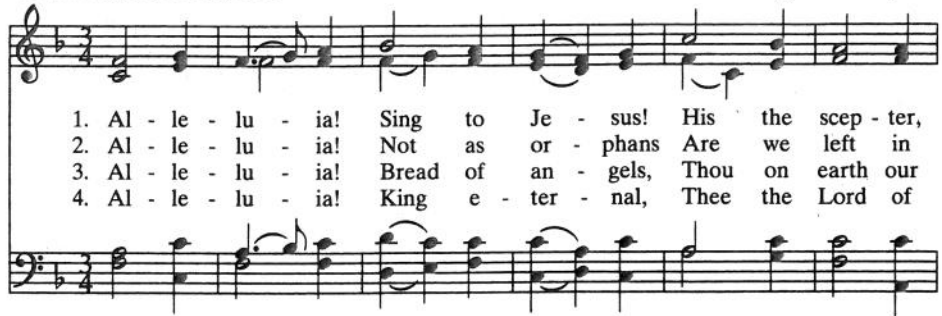
3 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -
dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with
a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle-wings, safe - ly his
dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with
prais-es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his
health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,
saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou
prais-es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.
or - gan, and song, sound-ing in glad ad - o - ra - - tion.
need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - - eth?
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7 D

William Chatterton Dix, 1866

Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831



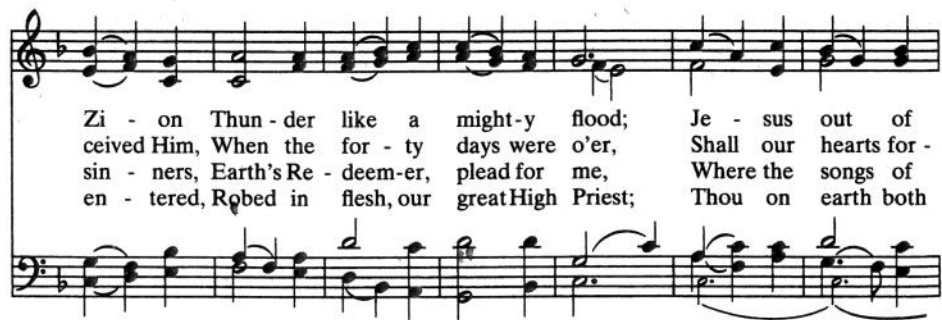
1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus! His the scep - ter,
2. Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans Are we left in
3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, Thou on earth our
4. Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Thee the Lord of



His the throne! Al - le - lu - ia! His the tri - umph,
sor - row now. Al - le - lu - ia! He is near us;
food, our stay. Al - le - lu - ia! Here the sin - ful
lords we own; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of Ma - ry,



His the vic - to - ry a - lone! Hark! the songs of peace - ful
Faith be - lieves nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
Flee to Thee from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
Earth Thy foot - stool, heaven Thy throne. Thou with - in the veil hast



Zi - on Thun - der like a might - y flood; Je - sus out of
ceived Him, When the for - ty days were o'er, Shall our hearts for -
sin - ners, Earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me, Where the songs of
en - tered, Rqbed in flesh, our great High Priest; Thou on earth both



ev - ery na - tion Hath re - deemed us by His blood.
get His prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?
all the sin - less Sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
Priest and Vic - tim In the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith - er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise,
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.
 Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

NETTLETON
 8787D

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

ENGELBERG 10.10.10.4

Fred Pratt Green, 1972

Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904

1. When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, And a - do -
2. How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found A new di -
3. So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, In faith and
4. Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! Let all re -

ra - tion leaves no room for pride, It is as
men - sion in the world of sound, As wor - ship
love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, Borne wit - ness
joyce who have a voice to raise! And may God

though the whole cre - a - tion cried: Al - le - lu - ia!
moved us to a more pro - found Al - le - lu - ia!
to the truth in ev - ery tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!
give us faith to sing al - ways:

Al - le - lu - ia! A men.

GOD

d=46-50

Whence Cometh the Sounds of These New Winds? ~ Ron Hanft

Our pipe organ began its life with us in 1865 as Opus 183 of the William A. Johnson company of Westfield MA. Prior to 1865 the church used a melodeon, a small reed organ. In a renovation of the sanctuary in 1855-56, a new melodeon was purchased that coincided with preparation of an organ and choir loft at the rear of the balcony above the narthex.

The change to a pipe organ in the chancel area in 1865 was a significant enlargement of the sound and the role of this instrument in worship and in the music life of the congregation. But it didn't end there. With minor changes along the way, the most significant changes and enlargements were made in 1955 and 1980-82. Since then, some subtle but important features began to fail. Now, with the current refurbishment of our organ, its full capacity has been restored.

More history of the organ and our church can be found in the book "How Firm a Foundation" which will be available to purchase in the Jonathan Edwards Room following the concert.

Our Thanks To:

We are deeply grateful to the firm Messrs. Czelusniak et Dugal, Inc. of Northampton, Massachusetts for their excellent renovation and restoration work which is being funded through the church's most recent capital campaign.

Thank you to today's guest organists: Brian Hoffman, Tim Pyper, Ed Lawrence and Nick Reid; to the musicians and presenters from the First Congregational Church of Stockbridge: Rich Geiler, Amy Shake and John Demler, choir section leaders; Tracy Wilson, Music Director Pro Tempore; Ron Hanft, Moderator; Rev. Brent Damrow, Pastor. Thank you to the members of the church's Board of Music: Michael Deegan, Linda Hoddy, Janet Canning, Mary Hoeltzel and Brian Farrell; members of the Service League for

helping at the reception: Margaret Hornick, Helen McCormick and Ann Brink; our ushers: Bruce Wilkens, Ronnie Cunningham, and Liza and Joe Catino; to Patty Strauch for audio-visual assistance; and Cindy Brown for photography. Thank you to Cathy Clark and Anne Hutchinson for the flowers. Thank you to Nejaime's Wine Cellars for the reception toast beverage, and Charlotte and Don Rogers for the paper products.

For your convenience, here is the church's QR code if you wish to make a contribution to our organ restoration fund.

FCC Stockbridge

@FCCStockbridge



venmo

Welcome! The First Congregational Church, UCC, Stockbridge, is 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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