



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP March 30, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Children are invited to Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. returning to worship for Children's Time. Nursery care is available during worship. We will share joys and concerns during worship. Prayers may instead be submitted in writing. Slips may be given to a deacon before worship or placed in the offering plate.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC Prelude on "Were You There?" arr. G. Young

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT *O Lamb of God Most Holy!* vs. 1 Pew #82

*CALL TO WORSHIP written by Rev. Nancy J

Ronnie Cunningham

One: Lift up your voice and call out to God.

All: We cry out, believing that God hears us.

One: Come together and wait for God.

All: We come together, trusting that God is still speaking.

One: Surely God's presence is here with us now.

All: We wait in hope, for God's steadfast love lifts our hearts.

One: Come, worship the Lord.

All: We celebrate the power of God that restores us.

CONTEMPORARY READING

Ronnie Cunningham

The Rich Man and Lazarus, a Poem by John Newton, stanzas 3-6

Note: the word *pelf* is defined as: money, especially when gained in a dishonest or dishonorable way.

Let all who worldly pelf,
And worldly spirits have,
Observe, each for himself,
The answer Abram gave:
Remember, thou wast filled with good,
While the poor beggar pined for food.

Neglected at thy door
With tears he begged his bread;
But now, he weeps no more,
His griefs and pains are fled:
His joys eternally will flow,
While thine expire in endless woe.

Lord, make us truly wise,
To choose thy peoples' lot;
And earthly joys despise,
Which soon will be forgot:
The greatest evil we can fear,
Is to possess our portion here!

*HYMN *If I Have Been the Source of Pain, O God* See page 5

TIME OF UNBURDENING/CONFESSION

You are invited into a time of silent reflection and confession. Once Jack begins to sing, you are invited to bring your slate-colored glass bead and place it at the base of the cross as a symbol of your prayer.

MUSIC *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* Jack Brown

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*SUNG RESPONSE *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*, vss. 1&2 Pew hymnal #84

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE from *The Christian Brothers of the Midwest*

Gary Cilley

God of the living, with all Your creatures great and small we sing Your bounty and Your goodness, for in the harvest of land and ocean, in the cycles of the seasons, and the wonders of each creature, You reveal Your generosity. Teach us the gratitude that dispels envy, that we may honor each gift as You cherish Your creation, and praise You in all times and places. That this day may be holy, good and joyful: we pray in gratitude to You, O Lord.

RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE

Once Jack begins to sing, you may bring up your colorful glass bead and place it at the foot of the cross as a symbol of your gratitude.

MUSIC

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Jack Brown

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Caring for the Least*

Pastor Brent

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts

See page 7

INVITATIONS

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent

*SENDING SONG *Lift High the Cross, verse 4*

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;

Let all the world adore that sacred name.

**4 Set up your throne, that earth's despair may cease,
beneath the shadow of its healing peace. [Refrain]**

POSTLUDE

Variations on ABERYSTWYTH, arr. Linker

Si Fui Motivo de Dolor, Oh Dios

(If I Have Been the Source of Pain, O God)

Spanish text, Sara M. de Hall; based on a text by C. M. Battersby
English transl., Janet W. May, 1992

(capo 1st fret)
Unison Em To be sung freely

1 Si fui mo - ti - vo de do - lor, oh Dios; si por mi
2 Si va - na y fú - til mi pa - la - bra fue; si al que su -

1 If I have been the source of pain, O God; If to the
2 If I have spo - ken words of cru - el - ty; If I have

cau - sa el dé - bil tro - pe - zó; si en tus ca - mi - nos
frí - a en su do - lor de - jé; no me con - de - nes,
weak I have re - fused my strength; If, in re - bel - lion,
left some suf - fer - ing un - re - lieved; Con - demn not my in -

yo no qui - se an - dar, ¡per - dón, oh Dios!
tú, por mi mal - dad, ¡per - dón, oh Dios!
I have strayed a - way; For - give me, God.
sen - si - tiv - i - ty; For - give me, God.
(Stanza 4) A - mén, A - mén.

Music Notes ~ Tracy Wilson, Minister of Music pro tem

Today, Jack and I will be sharing more beautiful Lenten hymns during the service. Personally, I find the hymns during Lent some of the most powerful of the entire church year, both in the poetry and music.

I Love to Tell the Story

Katherine Hankey, 1866; alt.

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat
 4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

Of Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love.
 than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
 be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
 will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry

I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.

Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts

William M. Vories, 1908; alt.

1 Let there be light, O God of hosts!
 2 With - in our pas - sioned hearts in - still
 3 Give us the peace of sens - es clear
 4 Let woe and waste of war - fare cease,

Let there be wis - dom on the earth!
 the calm that ends all strain and strife;
 to know our neigh - bors' good our own;
 that use - ful la - bor yet may build

Let broad hu - man - i - ty have birth!
 Make us your min - is - ters of life;
 To hope and suf - fer not a - lone,
 Its homes with love and laugh - ter filled!

Let there be deeds, in - stead of boasts!
 purge us from lusts that curse and kill!
 bond - ed in love that con - quers fear!
 God, give your way - ward chil - dren peace!

William Vories, founder of the vast, interdenominational Omi Mission in Japan, wrote this hymn as a response to the rising threat of German militarism in 1908. It exemplifies the vision of world peace and unity Vories strove to promote through his lifelong missionary work.

Tune: PENTECOST L.M.
 William Boyd, 1864

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

Thank you to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons David Anderegg, Gary Cilley, and Helen McCormick; readers Ronnie Cunningham; usher Susan Moor; fellowship Joanne Conroy and Marion Pomeroy; storytellers Rich Geiler and Terry Wise. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream and Scarlett Ritcher and Rae Geddes are in the nursery.

This Lent we encourage you to engage a daily practice. We are pleased to offer you two different resources. Feel free to pick one or use both!

Into the Deep is the theme for this year's UCC Daily Devotional. Each day offers a short reading, reflection, and prayer. The Devotionals are written by clergy and leaders within our denomination. Copies are available in the J.E. Room or by contacting Will Garrison in the Church Office.

The second resource comes from Brother David Steindl-Rast's website Grateful.org. This **Daily Practice** encourages wholeness by discovering the meaning in every moment. We will be using many of Brother David's prayers and materials in worship. His books are also available to check-out. Both can be found in the J.E. Room. The resource is also available on our website, in the "news" section.

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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