



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

PRIDE SUNDAY June 1, 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. **Today prayer requests can be shared verbally during worship. Alternatively, you may give a prayer slip to a Deacon or place it in the offering plate.**

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE Canon; Pr  ambule - Louis Vierne Scott Bailey, organ
FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

INTROIT *In Christ There Is No East Or West* - African American
Spiritual arr. H.T. Burleigh; Words by John Oxenham

*CALL TO WORSHIP by Rev. Ann B. Day, UCC ONA coalition
Gary Cilley, Elizabeth Young, Drea Pecor

Voice I: We are the body of Christ!

Voice II: The hand clapping, toe tapping, heart pumping, mouth tasting, arms embracing,

Voice III: Justice seeing, hymn singing, love making, bread breaking, risk taking

All: Body of Christ!

Voice I: Baptized in one Spirit, we are members of one body.

All: Many and varied in gender, color, sexuality, age, class, and ability, we are members of Christ's beautiful body.

continued

Voice II: None of us can say to another, "I have no need of you."

All: For only together can we find wholeness.

Voice III: None of us can say to another, "I will not care for you."

All: For we are connected like muscle and bone. If one suffers, we all suffer. If one rejoices, we all rejoice!

Voice I: Thanks be to God who, in Christ, has made us one.

All: Let us worship God!

*HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions

See page 5

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Rainbows*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love,*
Peter Scholtes, arr. Scott Bailey

*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

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

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

CONTEMPORARY READING *Love is the Way*, by Bishop Michael Curry

*HYMN

All the Colors of the Rainbow vss. 1-2

See page 6

SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 3:23-29 (*The Message*)

Liza Catino

Until the time when we were mature enough to respond freely in faith to the living God, we were carefully surrounded and protected by the Mosaic law. The law was like those Greek tutors, with which you are familiar, who escort children to school and protect them from danger or distraction, making sure the children will really get to the place they set out for.

But now you have arrived at your destination: By faith in Christ you are in direct relationship with God. Your baptism in Christ was not just washing you up for a fresh start. It also involved dressing you in an adult faith wardrobe – Christ’s life, the fulfillment of God’s original promise.

In Christ’s family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ. Also, since you are Christ’s family, then you are Abraham’s famous “descendant,” heirs according to the covenant promises.

SERMON

No Longer

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

All the Colors of the Rainbow vss. 3-4

See page 6

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *We Give Thanks*

We give thanks, merciful God, that in Christ, You seek to unite all things in heaven and in earth, and to reconcile all people to one another and to You. We confess that the new creation is not yet complete in us, and that we feel everywhere the barriers that separate humankind. Forgive us, and fill us with Your Spirit of oneness. Reveal to us those places where pride and selfishness rebuild the walls once torn down in Christ; through the power of Your Spirit. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

All Belong Here

Pastor Brent

TELLING THE STORY / BLESSING THE MEAL

SERVING

We will be serving the meal in the pews.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION *I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord*, American folk melody, arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan; words by Brian Wren

ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

It is a tradition of this church on Communion Sunday to invite people to bring items or donations for the People's Pantry.

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

*HYMN

Sing a New World into Being

See page 7

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent

POSTLUDE

Postlude - Peter Lutkin

Scott Bailey

Today we continue the practice of an **Active Prayer of Thanksgiving** as an act of gratitude. We encourage you to bring non-perishable food items and toiletries and/or money for food (cash or check), for the People's Pantry in Great Barrington. If you wish to

contribute by check, make payable to The First Congregational Church, memo line: People's Pantry. To contribute via Venmo, FCC Stockbridge, note People's Pantry on the 'What's this for?' line. Many thanks for your loving generosity!

Thank you to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons Helen McCormick, David Anderegg, Gary Cilley, Elizabeth Young, and Drea Pecor; reader Liza Catino; outside greeter Charlotte Rodgers. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream. Thanks to Cathy Clark for the flowers.

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil - lage, might en - vi-sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea - gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

All the Colors of the Rainbow

Carl P. Daw

ABBOT'S LEIGH

Cyril V. Taylor

1. All the co - lours of the rain-bow live un - seen in dai - ly light,
 2. All the bo - dy's parts are wan - ted, nor can one de - spise the rest:
 3. Ev - ery lang - uage gains more mu - sic when the words for peace ap - pear:
 4. Teach us, God, our need of oth - ers; through them help us ful - ly live.

but their splen - dors find ex - pres-sion when re - leased to hu - man sight;
 head and hand must work to - get - ther, as must eye and ear and chest;
 Pax, Sa - laam, Ei - ri - ni, Hei - wa, Pa - ce, San - ti, Frie - den, Mir.
 Wean us from our sel - fish hab - its; let us list - en, learn, for - give.

so the church re - veals most beau - ty where di - ver - si - ty is real:
 so the church needs all its mem - bers for a range of min - i - stries:
 Though our tongues make sounds that va - ry all be - speak a com - mon home:
 May we see your longed - for im - age in each hu - man heart and face,

breadth of race and class and gen - der, room for doubt and space to heal.
 var - ied gifts with one great mis - sion, "Do this for the least of these."
 long - ing for the end of con - flict, and a new life in God's Sha - lom.
 and be - hold how those a - round us can be chan - nels of your grace.

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Sing a New World into Being


Mary Louise Bringle

NETTLETON

Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second 1813



1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry



Find a tune for si - lent yearn - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;



dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.
where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.
where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.



Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

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Music Notes ~ Scott Bailey

Louis Vierne was the organist at Notre-Dame de Paris from 1900 until his death in 1937. Much of his compositional output was organ music including his six organ symphonies, his 24 Fantasy Pieces, and the Vingt-quatre pièces en style libre from which come the Canon and Prélude this morning. His students included Maurice Duruflé and Nadia Boulanger.

H.T. Burleigh had been accepted to the National Conservatory of Music in New York around 1892. While studying there, and serving as a handyman and maintenance worker, he caught the attention of the conservatory's director Antonin Dvorak who at the time was working on his "New World Symphony". The two formed a friendship and musical collaboration. Burleigh often sang African American spirituals to which Dvorak would remark that the melodies were the true folk music of America.

Written by Fr. Peter Scholtes, They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love is taken from a quote about how non-

believers used to describe Christians in early church history; "Behold, how they love one another." The text reflects on the words we find in the baptismal covenant of many denominations; "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?"

Brian Wren is one of the more prolific hymn writers of the late 20th century. His texts, including I Come With Joy, are deliberately inclusive and are widely circulated in hymnals of all denominations. The tune "Land of Rest" was widely known in Appalachia but has its roots in English and Irish ballads.

Peter Lutkin was an American conductor, organist, and composer working at Northwestern University as a professor and dean. He is most famous for his choral benediction The Lord Bless You and Keep You. He was a specialist in writing for a cappella choirs and was well-regarded as director of choirs and champion of a cappella singing.

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.

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

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