



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

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 29, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Children start in worship. There will be an optional activity for kids after Time with Children. 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

GATHERING MUSIC *Blessed Be Your Name*, arr. Hayes Sean Lewis

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME the Rev. Dr. Richard Floyd

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 16) Elizabeth Young

One: The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

Many: The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

One: I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

Many: I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

One: Therefore, my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

Many: You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

** Children are invited to participate in an activity. **

*HYMN

There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit

see pages 4-5

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Jeremy Ridenour

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

SERMON

Guided by the Spirit

Rev. Floyd

*HYMN

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart see pew hymnal #326

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Floyd

OFFERTORY *One Spirit of Love, Svenson*

Sean Lewis

*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

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

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 *Spirit of the Living God*

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

*HYMN *Spirit*

see pages 6-7

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Floyd

POSTLUDE *Epilogue for Trumpet, Birchwood*

Sean Lewis

Music Notes ~ Sean Lewis

As a child growing up in a United Methodist Church, I was surrounded by enthusiastic hymn singing on a weekly basis. Those catchy lyrics and tunes from the Methodist Hymnal were engraved deeply into me. Sometimes a hymn melody is catchy but the lyrics are clunky, and other times the lyrics are inspiring, filled with imagery but the tune isn't the easiest to sing or follow. Others are just the right balance!

The opening hymn for today, *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*, is one of those that I remember singing often in church, and it was always sung with energy and joy! When I hear and play this one, I am transported back to that sanctuary of my childhood, with everyone seated in their usual pews, those familiar voices lifted together in song. Perhaps this hymn will activate a memory for you, or maybe you will make a new connection. Whatever the response may be, I hope the lyrics and melody stay with you throughout the service and beyond into your day.

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There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT 9.11.9.11 with refrain

Doris Akers, 1962

Doris Akers, 1962

1. There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, And I
2. There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive Till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; There are
know Him in His full - ness and be - lieve; You're the

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Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs (1990)

sweet ex - pres-sions on each face, And I know they feel the
one to prof - it when you say, "I am going to walk with

Refrain
pres-ence of the Lord. Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it,
Je - sus all the way."

Sweet heav-en-ly Dove, Stay right here with us, Fill-ing us

with Your love; And for these bless-ings We lift our hearts in

praise. With - out a doubt we'll know that we have

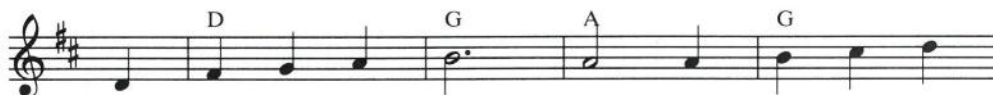
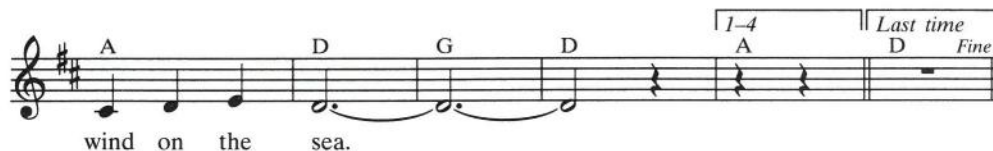
been re - vived When we shall leave this place.

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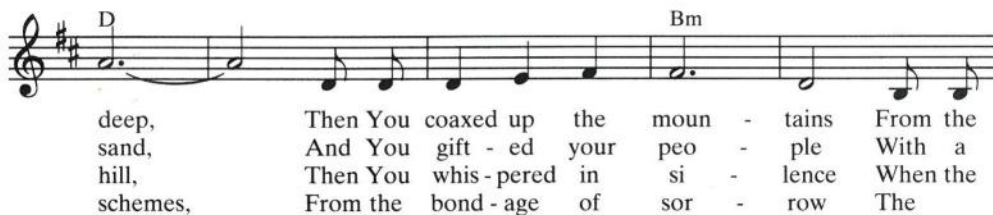
Spirit

James K. Manley, 1975

James K. Manley, 1975



1. You moved on the wa - ters, You called to the
2. You swept through the des - ert, You stung with the
3. You sang in a sta - ble, You cried from a
4. You call from to - mor - row, You break an - cient



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E A D G

val - leys of sleep, And o - ver the e -
 law and a land, And when they were blind -
 whole world was still, And down in the cit -
 cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom - en see vi -

A G D

ons You called to each thing, "A -
 ed With their i - dols and lies, Then You
 y You called once a - gain When You
 sions, Our men clear their eyes. With

Bm G

wake from your slum - bers And
 spoke through Your proph - ets To
 blew through Your peo - ple On the
 bold new de - ci - sions Your

A D G/A D A D.C. al Fine

rise on your wings."
 o - pen their eyes.
 rush of the wind.
 peo - ple a - rise.

♩=116-126

Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs (1990)

Thank you to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons Elizabeth Young and Helen McCormick; reader Jeremy Ridenour; greeter Janet Canning; fellowship Joanne Conroy and Tom Ruffing. Elisabeth Bellows is leading the kids' project. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream and Scarlett Ritcher is in the nursery.

Church Picnic: July 20 at 12:00pm, at beautiful Mohawk Lake in Glendale. This is a great day to come to church dressed for a picnic. Don't forget to pack your bathing suit and towel. More details in the weekly email and on the bulletin board in the JE Room.

Handbell News: After months of preparation, our Bell Choir is on the road! They are participating in the Festival Conference of the Handbell Musicians of America in Worcester this weekend. To watch the closing concert -

Sunday at 3:00pm - on livestream, find the link in the Current Events section of the church website.

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.

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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