



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

July 6, 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 *Pilgrim's Song* (arr. Ritter) Sean Lewis

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

INTROIT *Shout to the North* (Smith) see lyrics on page 8

*CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Psalm 66:1-12 Liza Catino

One: Shout out to God, all the earth! Break into joyful songs!

All: Sing the glory of God's holy name – shout forth your praise!

One: All God's works are wonderful!

All: The entire earth bows down to worship, singing songs of praise and glory.

One: Come, let's bless God together! Let's praise the One who gives us life and keeps us safe;

All: The one who watches over us, and keeps our feet from stumbling.

*HYMN *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* see page 5

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 10:1-11

Charlotte Rodgers

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Peace be Upon this House*

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

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 10:17-20

Charlotte Rodgers

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. Indeed, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

SERMON

Finding Joy in a Troubled World

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

We All Are One in Mission

see page 6

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

When It's All Been Said and Done (Cowan)

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**

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

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor Brent

BLESSING THE FEAST

We will be using the practice of intinction. You may come forward to receive the bread and cup. If you cannot come forward we will bring the meal to you.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

It is a tradition of this church on Communion Sunday to invite people to bring items or donations for the Pop-Up Pantry.

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

*CONTEMPORARY READING

Prayer of Confession and Renewal (based on Isaiah 2:4-5) – adapted from a prayer by the Idlewild Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN

One: Eternal God, before you nations rise and fall. Help us to repent our country's wrong, and to choose your way of reunion and renewal.

All: Great God, renew this nation.

One: Give us a glimpse of the Kingdom you are bringing to earth, where death and violence and hunger will be no more, and where all nations gather in the light of your presence.

All: Great God, renew this nation.

One: Teach us peace, that we may plow up battlefields and pound weapons into building tools, and learn to talk across old boundaries as brothers and sisters in your love.

All: Great God, renew this nation.

One: Talk sense to us, so that we may wisely end all prejudices, and may put a stop to injustice and cruelty, which divides or wounds the human family.

All: Great God, renew this nation.

One: Draw us together as one people who do your will, so that we may be a light to our nation, leading the way to your promised kingdom, which is even now coming among us.

All: Great God, renew this nation.

Great God, eternal Lord, show us that you alone reveal perfect law and liberty; renew our own hearts that we might serve you whole-heartedly, humbly, and gratefully. Amen

*HYMN *How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies vss. 1-3* see page 7

INVITATIONS

*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent

POSTLUDE	<i>Immortal, Invisible</i> (Peterson)	Sean Lewis
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Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

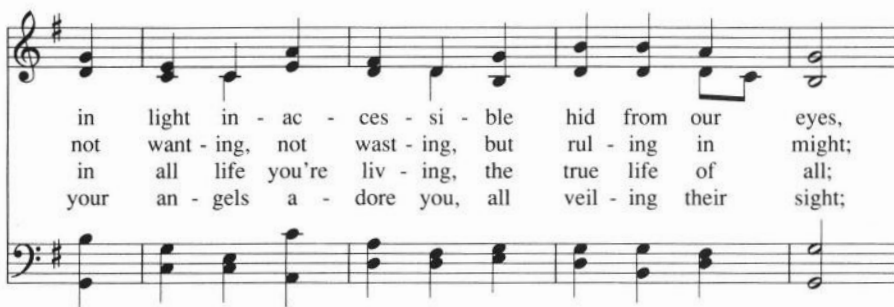
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Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

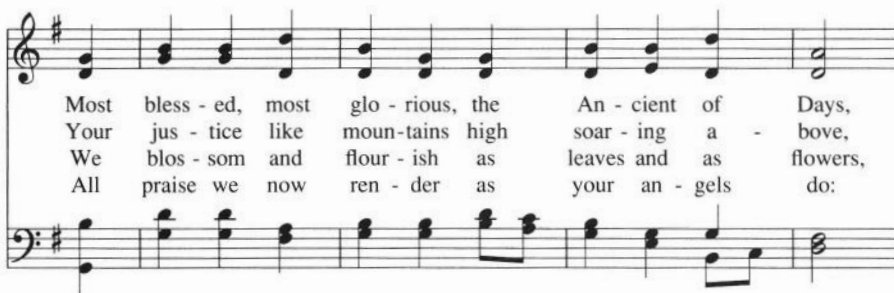
1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6



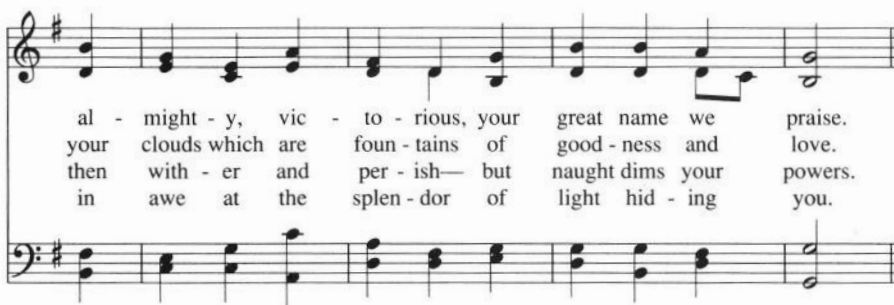
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
 Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

We All Are One in Mission

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN 7.6.7.6 D

Rusty Edwards, 1986; alt.

Memmingen ms., 17th century
Harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904

1. We all are one in mission, We all are one in call,
2. We all are called for service To witness in God's name;
3. Now let us be united And let our song be heard.

Our var-ied gifts u-nit-ed By Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min-is-tries are dif-ferent, Our pur-pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves-sel For God's re-deem-ing word.

A sin-gle, great com-mis-sion Com-pels us from a-bove
To touch the lives of oth-ers By God's sur-pris-ing grace
We all are one in mis-sion, We all are one in call,

To plan and work to-geth-er That all may know Christ's love.
So ev-ery folk and na-tion May feel God's warm em-brace.
Our var-ied gifts u-nit-ed By Christ, the Lord of all.

How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

St. 1, Katharine Lee Bates, 1893; alt.
St. 2, 3, 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

1 How beau-ti-ful, our spa-cious skies, our am-ber waves of grain;
2 In-dig-e-nous and im-mi-grant, our daugh-ters and our sons:
3 How beau-ti-ful, sin-cere la-ment, the wis-dom born of tears,
4 How beau-ti-ful, two con-ti-nents, and is-lands in the sea

our pur-ple moun-tains as they rise a-bove the fruit-ful plain.
O may we nev-er rest con-tent till all are tru-ly one.
the cour-age called for to re-pent the blood-shed through the years.
that dream of peace, non-vi-o-lence, all peo-ple liv-ing free.

A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God's gra-cious gifts a-bound,
A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God grant that we may be
A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God grant that we may be
A-mer-i-cas! A-mer-i-cas! God grant that we may be

and more and more we're grate-ful for life's boun-ty all a-round.
a sis-ter-hood and broth-er-hood from sea to shin-ing sea.
a na-tion blessed with none op-pressed, true land of lib-er-ty.
a hem-i-sphere where peo-ple here all live in har-mo-ny.

On her first trip west in the summer of 1893 the distinguished New England educator Katharine Lee Bates was inspired to write "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies." One hundred years later Miriam Therese Winter wrote new stanzas to clearly include all of the Americas.

Tune: MATERNA C.M.D.
Samuel A. Ward, 1882

Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs (1990)

Thank you to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons Drea Pecor and Helen McCormick; readers Liza Catino, Ronnie Cunningham, and Charlotte Rodgers; usher Don Rodgers; greeter Carl Bradford; fellowship Janet & John Canning. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream and Scarlett Ritcher is in the nursery.

Church Picnic

July 20th at 12:00 noon at Mohawk Lake (rain date July 27). This is a relaxed time of picnicking, fellowship, swimming, and boating for all members and friends of our congregation. (Sorry, no pets, rafts, or boats.) Bring food to grill for yourself, plus a side dish or dessert to share. Condiments, hot dog and burger buns, drinks, cutlery, paper goods, and a grill will be provided. **Note:** Worship service on July 20 will be **outside** on the front lawn of the church.

We continue the practice of an **Active Prayer of Thanksgiving** as an act of gratitude after communion. We encourage you to bring non-perishable food items and toiletries and/or money for food (cash or check), for our own Pop-Up Pantry.

If you wish to contribute by check, please make your check payable to First Congregational Church, memo line: Pop-Up Pantry. To contribute via Venmo, FCC Stockbridge, note Pop-Up Pantry on the 'What's this for?' line.

Lyrics for "Shout to the North":

*Shout to the north and the south; Sing to the east and the west;
Jesus is savior to all; Lord of heaven and earth!*

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.

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