



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

July 13, 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

Sean Lewis

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

*HYMN

Lord, I Gladly Trust vss. 1 & 2

see page 5

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 25

Brian Farrell

One: To you, O GOD, we lift up the spirit of our whole selves.

All: O God, we trust unashamedly in you; seeking that you be not ashamed of us;

One: Teach us. Show us. Guide us in your paths.

All: Grow us to know your ways more clearly.

One: In your hands, O Lord we place our lives

All: Knowing your forgiveness, your love, and your mercy exceed our greatest failings.

One: In the midst of my troubles – “be my strength and my shield this day.”

All: God we gladly trust in you.

*HYMN

Lord, I Gladly Trust vss. 3 & 4

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Amos 7:7-8

Drea Pecor

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will spare them no longer

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Plumb Lines*

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

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 25:1-10

Patty Strauch

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

2 O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.

3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

5 Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

6 Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

8 Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

9 He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.

10 All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

SERMON

Remembering

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

Just As I Am

see page 6

PRAYER OF CONFESSION / *WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

*A SPECIAL BLESSING

see page 4

*HYMN

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life, vss. 1, 2, 3, & 6

see page 7

INVITATIONS

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent

POSTLUDE

Sean Lewis

A SPECIAL BLESSING

One: Loving and creating God, we give you thanks for the noble and aspirational thing called church.

All: Bless this church and all churches that we may follow the Way of Christ and his commandment to love.

One: God of fellowship and grace, we give you thanks for the Berkshire Association and its member churches.

All: Bless our covenant that we might be our siblings' keeper, and that through our common calling be a blessing to our communities.

One: Calling and inspiring God, we give you thanks for all who have stepped forward to serve the Association including those who are here today.

All: Bless the leaders and volunteers that they might accept the costs and joys of discipleship on our behalf.

One: God of vision and purpose, we give you thanks for the Holy Spirit.

All: Pour it out on those who have gathered here, on the Berkshire Association, and on the Church Universal that we might see your vision for our world and that we might dream new dreams. Amen



Churches of the Berkshire Association

Canaan Congregational Church
Church of Christ, Mt. Washington
Church on the Hill, Lenox
First Congregational Church, Great Barrington
First Congregational Church, Dalton
First Congregational Church, Lee
First Congregational Church, North Adams

First Congregational Church, Stockbridge
First Congregational Church, Williamstown
Monterey Church, UCC
Old Parish, Sheffield
Second Congregational Church, Pittsfield
Second Congregational Church, Williamstown
UCC Pittsfield

LORD, I Gladly Trust **25B**

Chords: D, G, D, A, A7, D, G, D, Esus, E7, A, D, G, D, Bm, Em, D/A, A, D

Lyrics:

1 LORD, I glad - ly trust in you: let me not be
 2 In your hands I place my past: all my sins you
 3 Teach me what is true and good; let me hear and
 4 When my trou - bles mul - ti - ply you a - lone can

put to shame. As I look up toward your throne
 know so well. Your for - give - ness, LORD, I need,
 un - der - stand! In the choic - es I must make
 bring me through: so with all your saints I say,

make your gra - cious pro - mise known: God my ref - uge
 for my guilt is great in - deed; ev - en great - er
 show my heart the way to take, so that I may
 "Be my strength and shield to - day." Since I know you

and my hope, your pro - tect - ive care I claim.
 is your love - mer - cy more than I can tell.
 al - ways tread on the path which you have planned.
 hear my prayer, LORD, I glad - ly trust in you.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This tune in a higher key: p. 346.

Words: Martin Leckebusch © 2006 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.

Music (REDHEAD 76 | 7.7.7.7.7.7): Richard Redhead, 1853, P.D.

Psalms for All Seasons (2012)

Just as I Am

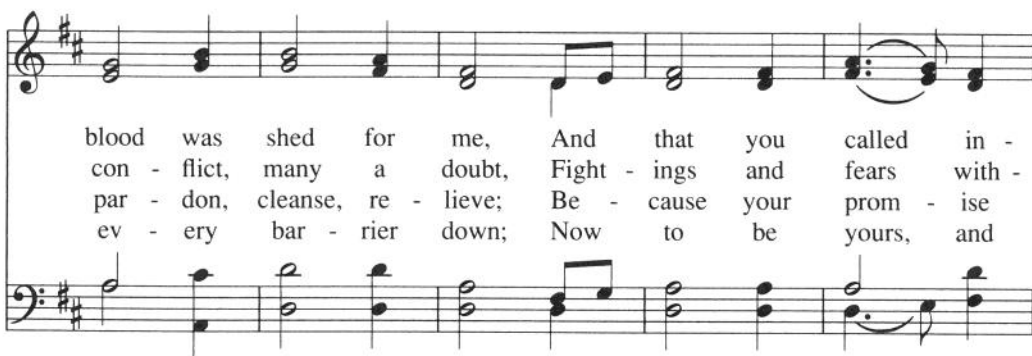
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Charlotte Elliott, 1836; alt.

John 6:37; Eph. 2:14



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
 3 Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,
 4 Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken



blood was shed for me, And that you called in -
 con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise
 ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be yours, and



vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
 yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

This text appeared in Charlotte Elliott's Invalid's Hymn Book, published in England in 1836. Disabled at age thirty, she continued a career of writing and editing. This hymn has been translated into many languages.


Tune: WOODWORTH L.M.
 William B. Bradbury, 1849

The New Century Hymnal (1995)



Verses

1, 2, 3, & 6

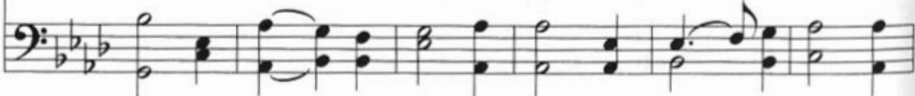

665 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life



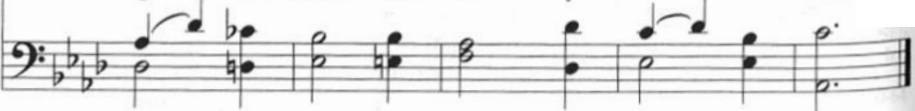
1. Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2. In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad-owed
 3. From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
 4. The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the
 5. O Sav - ior, from the moun - tain - side, make haste to
 6. Till all shall learn com - pas - sion's might, fol - low - ing

1. cries of clan and race, a - bove the noise of self - ish
 2. thresh - olds fraught with fears, from paths where hide the lures of
 3. grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from sor - row's
 4. fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti - tudes to
 5. heal these hearts of pain; a - mong these rest - less throngs a -
 6. where your feet have trod; till glo - rious from your realm of

1. strife, O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.
 2. greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 3. stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.
 4. view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.
 5. bide; O, tread the cit - y's streets a - gain.
 6. light shall come the cit - y of our God.



WORDS: Frank Mason North, 1903; adapt. Ruth Duck, 198
 MUSIC: William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

The Chalice Hymnal (1995)

Thank you to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons Gary Cilley, Elizabeth Young, and Drea Pecor; readers Brian Farrell and Patty Strauch; usher Ronnie Cunningham; fellowship Jo Ann Levitt and Elizabeth Young. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream and Scarlett Ritcher is in the nursery. Thanks to Cathy Clark for the flowers.

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.

Welcome!

Today we welcome Rev. Cara Davis and Rev. Quentin Chin. Cara serves as Moderator of the Berkshire Association and Quentin as its Registrar. Please greet them warmly during fellowship hour before they meet with our church leadership. The Berkshire Association guides, supports, and cares for the UCC churches in Berkshire County plus Canaan, NY.

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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