



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

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

July 20, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Children start in worship with an optional activity after Time with Children. Nursery care is available during worship. **Prayer requests can be shared verbally during worship. Or you may give a prayer slip to a Deacon or place it in the offering plate.** All hymns today are from *The Faith We Sing*.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Sean Lewis

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Rev. Brent Damrow

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

INTROIT

Sanctuary

"The Faith We Sing," #2164

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 15

Ronnie Cunningham

One: We have come here to the dwelling place of God, to a sanctuary of the holy.

All: We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place.

One: What does God desire of those who enter this place?

All: That we live with integrity and speak honestly with truth from the heart.

One: God desires the one who doesn't speak ill of others,

All: The one who doesn't wrong a neighbor or slander another.

One: We have come here to loath the loathsome and to revere the Eternal,

All: We have come at Christ's own bidding to remember what it means to keep our promises no matter the cost and to pour out our lives in service of the vulnerable.

*HYMN

Lord of All Hopefulness

#2197

CONTEMPORARY READING *Foundations of Christian Faith*, by Karl Rahner

Brian Farrell

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

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

READING

Amos 8:1-6

Ronnie Cunningham

This is what the Lord God showed me: a basket of summer fruit. He said,
“Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then
the Lord said to me,

“The end has come upon my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.
The songs of the temple shall become wailings on that day,”
says the Lord God;

“the dead bodies shall be many, cast out in every place. Be silent!”

Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,

buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

SUNG RESPONSE

Make Me a Servant

Sean Lewis

REFLECTION

Choices

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

Make Me a Servant

#2176

READING

Luke 10:38-42 Martha and Mary

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman
named Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at
Jesus’s feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by

her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed – indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

SUNG RESPONSE	<i>All I Need is You</i> , verse 1	Sean Lewis
REFLECTION	<i>Duty and Devotion</i>	Pastor Brent
*HYMN	<i>All I Need is You</i> , verses 2 & 3	#2080

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY	<i>Guide My Feet</i> (congregation invited to join)	#2208
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*DOXOLOGY	<i>Lasst Uns Erfreuen</i>
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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	<i>Into My Heart</i>	#2160
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*SHARING OF THE PEACE

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

*HYMN

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

#2241

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent

POSTLUDE

Sean Lewis

Thank you to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons David Anderegg, Helen McCormick, Drea Pecor, and Elizabeth Young; readers Ronnie Cunningham and Brian Farrell; usher Linda Hoddy; greeter Carl Bradford; fellowship Cindy and Jack Brown. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream and Scarlett Ritcher and Rae Geddes are in the nursery.

Please come to the **Summer Picnic – today!** 12:00noon at Mohawk Lake. If you didn't bring food to grill for yourself, plus a side dish or dessert to share, **please come anyway**, there is always plenty. Drinks, buns, condiments, cutlery, paper goods, and a grill will be provided. **If you need a map, please ask an usher.**

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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