



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

August 10, 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.**

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Sean Lewis

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Rev. Brent Damrow

## GATHERING IN WORSHIP

INTROIT

\*CALL TO WORSHIP      Written by Rosie Penner

Janet Canning

One: Come all who are weary

**All: of wealth, of poverty, of power, of struggle, of division**

One: Come all who are heavy-laden

**All: with too much, with too little, with anxiety, with fear, with anger**

One: Come all who have hope

**All: for liberation, for peace, for freedom, for the kingdom**

One: Hear these words

**All: "See, I am making all things new."**

\*HYMN      *This is a Day of New Beginnings*

see page 5

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING    Isaiah 1:17

learn to do good;  
seek justice;  
rescue the oppressed;  
defend the orphan;  
plead for the widow.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

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

\*SHARING OF THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 33:12-22

Liza Catino

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.  
The Lord looks down from heaven;  
he sees all humankind.  
From where he sits enthroned he watches  
all the inhabitants of the earth —  
he who fashions the hearts of them all  
and observes all their deeds.  
A king is not saved by his great army;  
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.  
The war horse is a vain hope for victory,  
and by its great might it cannot save.  
Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love,  
to deliver their soul from death  
and to keep them alive in famine.  
Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and shield.  
Our heart is glad in him because we trust in his holy name.  
Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you.

SERMON    *Where we Put our Trust – There our Heart Shall Follow*    Pastor Brent

\*HYMN                      *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*                      see page 6

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

John Canning

from “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

More and more I feel that the people of ill will have used time much more effectively than have the people of good will. We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people. Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be coworkers with God, and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation. We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right. Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy and transform our pending national elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood. Now is the time to lift our national policy from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of human dignity.

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

#### INVITATIONS

\*HYMN *May You Run and Not Be Weary* see page 7

\*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent

POSTLUDE Sean Lewis

#### **Music Notes ~ Sean Lewis, Minister of Music**

As this beautiful summer continues to spread sunshine and joy on a daily basis, I am starting to plan for what is ahead in September and beyond. I'm eager to work on a variety of music with so many of you. To help me plan and prepare for those opportunities, I need to know more about those involved in the musical life of this church.

Join me on Wednesday, August 20, from 6:30-8:00pm, here in the church. I invite all singers (returning and new/prospective) to gather for a time of food, fellowship, and some music that evening. Singers ages 15+ are encouraged to attend. And for those non-singers who wish to be involved in musical opportunities, you are welcome to come as well!

Please email me ([music@stockbridgeucc.org](mailto:music@stockbridgeucc.org)) with any questions or to RSVP regarding your attendance for August 20. Hope to see many of you there.

*Unison*

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -  
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y  
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the  
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and  
 \* In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is  
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of  
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and  
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -  
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.  
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

\*Alternate fourth stanza for Holy Communion

Brian Wren wrote this hymn in 1978 for a New Year's Day service in Oxford, England. The music is by the editor of two hymnals of the United Methodist Church and was composed for the original Wren text.

Tune: BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.  
 Carlton R. Young, 1987

*The New Century Hymnal (1995)*

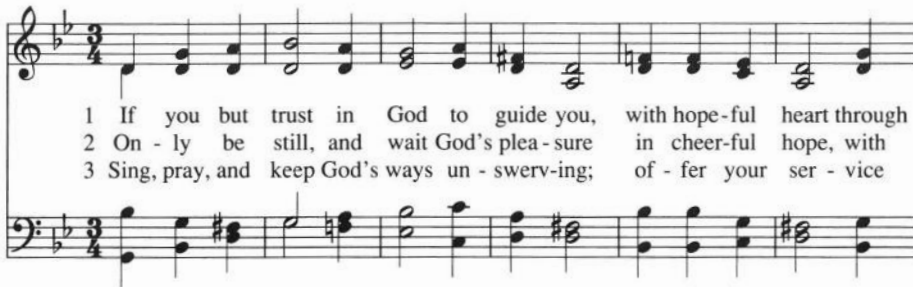
# If You But Trust in God to Guide You

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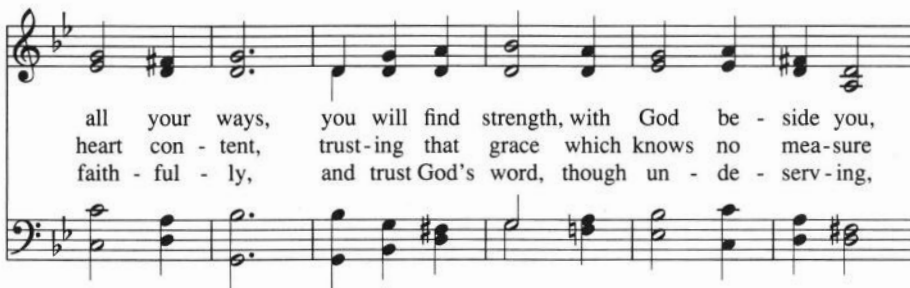
Georg Neumark, 1641

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

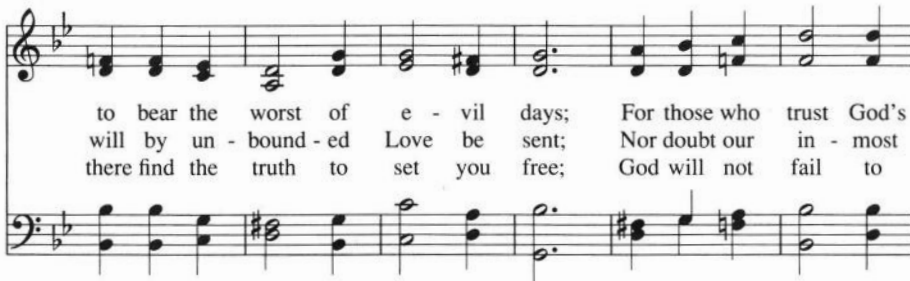
Ps. 55:22



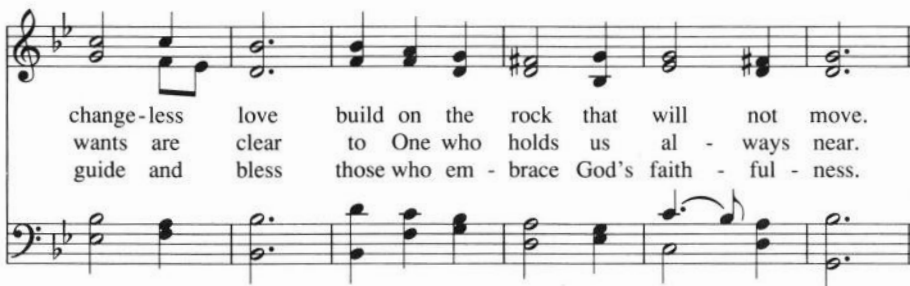
1 If you but trust in God to guide you, with hope-ful heart through  
 2 On - ly be still, and wait God's plea - sure in cheer-ful hope, with  
 3 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv-ing; of - fer your ser - vice



all your ways, you will find strength, with God be - side you,  
 heart con - tent, trust-ing that grace which knows no mea - sure  
 faith - ful - ly, and trust God's word, though un - de - serv-ing,



to bear the worst of e - vil days; For those who trust God's  
 will by un - bound - ed Love be sent; Nor doubt our in - most  
 there find the truth to set you free; God will not fail to



change-less love build on the rock that will not move.  
 wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways near.  
 guide and bless those who em - brace God's faith - ful - ness.

The comforting words of Psalm 55:22 inspired this beautiful hymn by Georg Neumark, who wrote both words and music. Neumark was a German poet who suffered much during the Thirty Years' War.

Tune: NEUMARK 9.8.9.8.8.8.  
 Georg Neumark, 1657

$\text{♩} = 130$

G C/G D G G/B

May you run and not be wear-

C6 D G Maj7

- y. May your heart be filled with song. And may the

G G/B C6 Am7

love of God con-tin - ue to give you hope and

D G G/B

keep you strong. And may you run and not be wear -

C6 Am D E

- y. May your life be filled with joy. And may the

Am C/D D G C/G

road you trav - el al-ways lead you home.

1 G C/G 2 G C/G D G

May you

**Thank you** to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons Gary Cilley, Drea Pecor, and Helen McCormick; readers Janet Canning, John Canning, and Liza Catino; usher Ronnie Cunningham; fellowship Terry and Jay Wise. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream and Scarlett Ritcher and Rae Geddes are in the nursery. Thanks to Terry Wise for the flowers.

**Please help build a new directory!**

On Sept 7, Rally Sunday, we will put new church directories into the hands of our congregation. The Connections Committee has been working with the staff to design a new format that will be both efficient and easy to use. But we need your help updating contact information and photographs.

Here is how you can help: During Fellowship today, stop by the Connections table to check your information.

- Make sure that phone numbers and emails are correct.
- Make sure we have both a mailing and a physical address (looking at you, Stockbridge residents!)

(Please note: marital status and birthdates are helpful, but will not be printed in the directory.)

Cindy Brown is here today to take photos. Or you can attach your individual and family photos to an email sent to [office@stockbridgeucc.org](mailto:office@stockbridgeucc.org).

*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.*

(413) 298-3137 | [office@stockbridgeucc.org](mailto:office@stockbridgeucc.org) | [stockbridgeucc.org](http://stockbridgeucc.org)

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