



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

August 24, 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 *Come Worship the Lord* (Eltzroth)

Liza Catino

READING Isaiah 58:9-12

Cathy Clark

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

*CALL TO WORSHIP from the Presbyterian Church USA

Cathy Clark

One: We gather to worship God,

All: Who creates us and loves us;

One: Who gifts us with diversity and makes us for community;

All: Who gives Jesus Christ to show us how to live;

One: Who inspires children, youth, young adults, and people of all ages,

All: To seek justice, share power, and live together in love and equality;

One: Who invites us to join the struggle for wholeness and wellbeing for all,

All: and whose presence, grace, and love sustain us in our living.

One: We gather to worship God.

All: To God be all glory, honor, and praise!

*HYMN *They Did Not Build in Vain* vss. 1, 3, 4

see page 5

CONTEMPORARY READING

see page 4

TIME WITH CHILDREN

*SHARING OF THE PEACE (Children may participate in an activity.)

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 58:13-14

Liza Catino

If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,

from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;

if you call the Sabbath a delight

and the holy day of the Lord honorable;

if you honor it, not going your own ways,

serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;

then you shall take delight in the Lord,

and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;

I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

SERMON *Sabbath!*

Pastor Brent

*HYMN *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

see pages 6-7

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Joy Shall Come in the Morning* (Amidon) Liza Catino

*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

*HYMN SING

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 SING

*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Joy to the World*, verse 2 see pew hymnal #40

POSTLUDE Sean Lewis

Music Notes ~ Sean Lewis

I want to thank everyone for all that I've experienced so far over these past couple of months here in Stockbridge. My time here has started with so many positives, and I truly am looking forward to the music we will share and create together in the weeks and months ahead. From singers to ringers, and youth musicians to guest musicians, there will be a wide variety of music added to the life of the church. Whether you will be actively engaged in music on a regular basis, or you will be able to participate here and there, thank you in advance for all you do!



Contemporary Reading

read by Elizabeth Young

“why are Christians generally regarded as such a dour bunch? I’ll confess that even I have thought of Christians that way. And when I’m visiting a church and walk in on Sunday morning, if I can’t sense any kind of palpable joy it’s hard for me to even sit there for the service. Why? Because if I can’t sense any joy in a congregation, I wonder whether the gospel is being preached there at all. Let me be clear again, as I was in an earlier chapter, that joy is different from just being happy. I have been at devastatingly tragic funerals where joy was nonetheless at least still present at moments. And I’ve known joy even in the midst of times of deep sorrow. Joy is not about everything being okay. Joy, at a basic level, is about the hope that God’s love is capable of transforming everything, even us. God’s glory and our joy cannot be separated from one another. Because God is worthy of being glorified, we who are God’s creation can find joy. And, conversely, because we can find joy, we know that God is worthy of glory.”

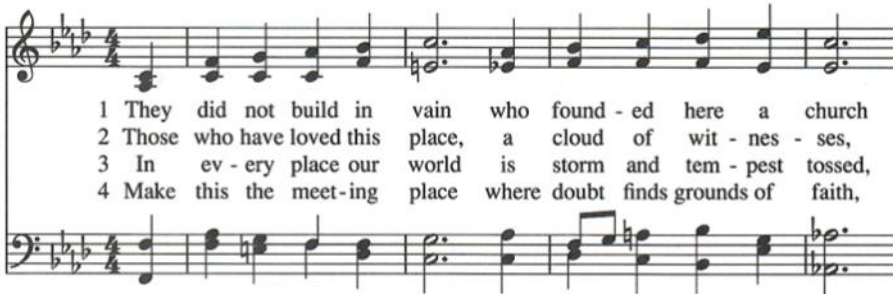
~ Emily C. Heath, *Glorify: Reclaiming the Heart of Progressive Christianity*

373 Verses 1, 3, & 4

They Did Not Build in Vain

Acts 2:1-4, 43-47; 1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:19-22; Heb. 12:1-2

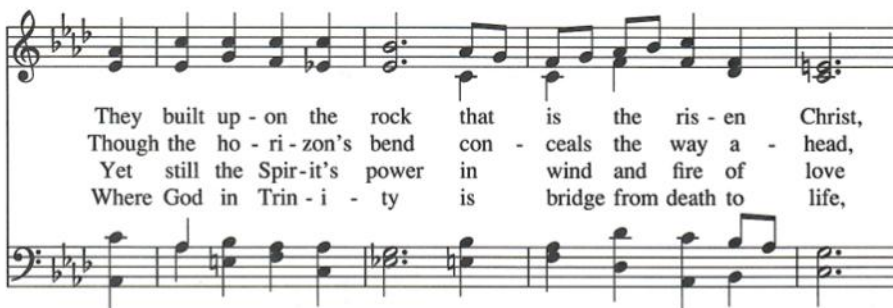
Alan Luff, 1989; alt.



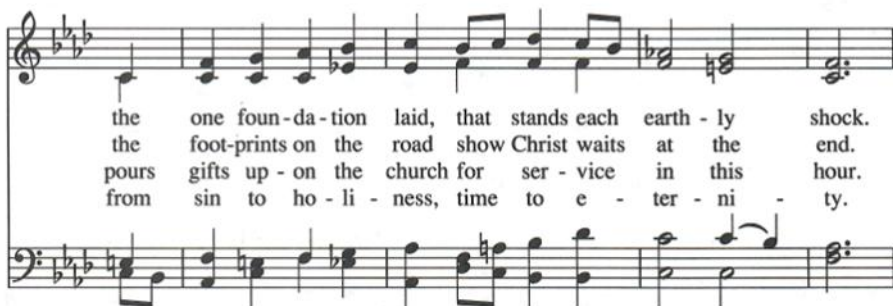
1 They did not build in vain who found - ed here a church
 2 Those who have loved this place, a cloud of wit - nes - ses,
 3 In ev - ery place our world is storm and tem - pest tossed,
 4 Make this the meet - ing place where doubt finds grounds of faith,



as wit - ness to God's love a - mid a world of pain;
 sur - round and urge us on as we now run our race;
 the flames of fear and hate are e - vil's flags un - furled;
 where hurt finds heal - ing love, our pen - i - tence your grace;



They built up - on the rock that is the ris - en Christ,
 Though the ho - ri - zon's bend con - ceals the way a - head,
 Yet still the Spir - it's power in wind and fire of love
 Where God in Trin - i - ty is bridge from death to life,



the one foun - da - tion laid, that stands each earth - ly shock.
 the foot - prints on the road show Christ waits at the end.
 pours gifts up - on the church for ser - vice in this hour.
 from sin to ho - li - ness, time to e - ter - ni - ty.

Alan Luff, a graduate of the Royal College of Music, has served the Anglican Church as parish priest, precentor of Westminster Abbey, and canon of Birmingham Cathedral. He is also known as the author of Welsh Hymns and Their Tunes (1990).

Tune: LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.
 Traditional Yigdal melody
 Adapt. Meyer Lyon, 1770

482

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8

Joachim Neander, 1680

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

Stralsund *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, 1665Harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863

Desc. Craig Sellar Lang, 1953

Descant

3. Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

1. Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2. Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly
 3. Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

dore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy
 reign - eth, Shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so
 dore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

Music: Descant from 20 Hymn Tune Descants (C. S. Lang). Reproduced by permission of Novello and Company Limited.

prais - es be - fore Him! Let the a - men Sound from His

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, Now to His
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen How thy de -
 prais - es be - fore Him! Let the a - men Sound from His

peo-ple a - gain; Glad - ly for aye we a - dore Him.

tem - ple draw near; Join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been Grant - ed in what He or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for aye we a - dore Him.

Thank you to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons Drea Pecor, Elizabeth Young, and Helen McCormick; readers Liza Catino and Cathy Clark; ushers Marion Pomeroy and Ronnie Cunningham; fellowship Rich Geiler and Michael Monroe. Patty Strauch is running the Livestream. Elisabeth Bellows is staffing the nursery. Thanks to Cathy Clark 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.)

Stop by the office during the week to have your photo taken. Or you can attach your individual and family photos to an email sent to 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 | stockbridgeucc.org

All hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723107