



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

September 21, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Children start in worship with an optional activity after Time with Children. Nursery care is available during worship. Please welcome Dana Sanchez and Mari Brennan, the new Nursery Care Providers. **Today prayers need to be written on a paper slip. Please give the 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

Psalm 139 (Pote)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace Diggs

Excerpted from a longer prayer posted on **Oratio Contemplativa**.

One: We will give thanks to you, O Lord, with our whole hearts, for your glory is above the heavens;

**All: From the rising of the sun to it setting, we will praise the name of the Lord!**

One: You raise the poor from the dust and lift the needy from the ash heap, transforming them with glory and honor;

**All: From the rising of the sun to it setting, we will praise the name of the Lord!**

One: You bring fruitfulness from barrenness and give homes to the solitary;

continued

**All: From the rising of the sun to it setting, we will praise the name of the Lord!**

One: Who is like our God, the One who looks down from the heights on the heavens on the earth?

**All: From the rising of the sun to it setting, we will praise the name of the Lord!**

One: This is our God, the Holy One.

**All: We come before him with thanksgiving singing our praise!**

\*HYMN *Bless the Lord, O Saints and Servants* see page 5

\*SHARING OF THE PEACE

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 12:1-2 Grace Diggs

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Serving*

\*BLESSING ONE WHO HAS SERVED see insert

A Celebration of the 50th Ordination Anniversary of Rick Floyd.

\*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.**

\*HYMN *Holy, Holy, Holy* vss. 1 & 2 see pages 6-7

SCRIPTURE READING    Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Ronnie Cunningham

My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick.

Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people  
from far and wide in the land:

“Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?”

“Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,  
with their foreign idols?”)

“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”

For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken,  
I mourn, and horror has seized me.

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of the daughter of my people  
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears,  
so that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

SERMON

*Weeping*

Pastor Brent

\*HYMN

*When Cain Killed Abel*

see page 7

PRAYER RESPONSE

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*I Will Sing With the Spirit* (Rutter)

\*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 (only on slips)

UNISON PRAYER by Thomas Merton

**"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."**

PRAYER RESPONSE

**GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD**

INVITATIONS

\*SENDING SONG

Sean Lewis, organ

As Sean plays, the congregation is invited to leave the sanctuary through the JE Room so that we may go outside to bless the solar panels.

\*BLESSING OF THE SOLAR INSTALLATION

see insert

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent

\*SUNG BENEDICTION RESPONSE *We Are Marching / Siyahamba*

**1. We are marching in the light of God (4x)**

**We are marching, we are marching (ooo)**

**We are marching in the light of God.**

**We are marching, we are marching (ooo)**

**We are marching in the light of God.**

**2. We are praying...**

**3. We are singing...**

**4. We are living...**

# 113B Bless the LORD, O Saints and Servants

1 Bless the LORD, O saints and ser - vants, praise the might of  
 2 Who in heaven can be God's e - qual, who on earth with

God's great name: age - less, match - less, filled with won - der,  
 God com - pare? Who can raise the poor from ash - es,

yes - ter - day, to - day, the same. When the dawn re -  
 lift the need - y from de - spair? God a - lone in -

ceives the sun - rise till the night re - turns its rays, shall the glo - ry  
 vites the help - less with the strong to share re - ward; fields once bar - ren

of God's good - ness be the theme of all our praise.  
 yield a har - vest, tongues once si - lent praise their LORD.

*Psalms for All Seasons (2012)*

Verses 1 & 2

# 138 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICAEA 11.12.12.10

Reginald Heber (1783–1826)  
As in *Hymns Written and Adapted*, 1827

John Bacchus Dykes, 1861  
Desc. David McKinley Williams, 1948

*Descant*

4. Ho - - - - - ly,

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,  
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide Thee,  
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ho - - - - - ly,

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;  
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 Though the eye of sin - ful-ness Thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - - - - - ly,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,  
 On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 Who wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 Per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

## When Cain Killed Abel

2135

1. When Cain killed A - bel in a fight, and
2. In ev - ery fam - ily, small or great, when
3. And when in church and world to - day such
4. Good Chris - tians, join in God's la - ment, weep

Ja - cob stole an - oth - er's right, when Jo - seph's broth - ers  
 jeal - ou - sy twists love to hate, and ri - vals turn to  
 feel - ings still come in - to play, when broth - ers, sis - ters  
 now and mourn, be pen - i - tent, and pray to God: For -

gave him chase, God wept and mourned their fall from grace.  
 en - e - mies, God weeps at our hos - til - i - ties.  
 stand a - part, God weeps for ev - ery bro - ken heart.  
 give us all. Re - store us as to your lov - ing call

WORDS: Mary Nelson Keithahn (Gen. 4:8-10; 27; 37)

MUSIC: John D. Horman

AFTER THE FALL  
LM

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*The Faith We Sing* (2000)

**Thank you** to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons Drea Pecor, Gary Cilley, and Helen McCormick; readers Ronnie Cunningham and Grace Diggs; fellowship Board of Music. Will Curtis is running the Livestream. Mari Brennan and Dana Sanchez will be in the nursery. Thanks to Cathy Clark for the flowers.

**Today at 2:00pm there is a memorial service for Pat Ryan.** Please help prepare the sanctuary by removing bulletins and personal belongings. Thanks!



**Applause** is a wonderful reaction to events that bring us joy, and is often given in recognition of being entertained. In church, where we are worshipping God, however, applause can be a distraction from the celebration of the Holy Spirit. To express

appreciation for music that is part of worship, we ask that applause be saved until after the postlude (when worship is over).

We do encourage applause as an expression of joyful approval following some activities that occur during church service, such as welcoming new members, recognizing significant milestones (birthdays, anniversaries), or appreciating a special gift to the congregation. At these moments, the pastor will encourage applause, or ask "Do I hear an Amen?"

*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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