



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

October 19, 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. **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

Welcome (Mark Miller)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Frank Russell

Based on Psalm 121 verse 1, adapted from Rev. Mindi

One: I lift my eyes up to the hills from where does my help come?

All: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

One: In the comfort of the Berkshires, we do gaze at the hills and ridgelines
seeking peace

**All: We also come here. For God is found among us. wherever two or three
are gathered in Christ's name,**

One: God is here among us. Come, let us worship the God of Creation, the God
of People, the God of Community.

All: We gather to answer the prayer of Jesus that we might all be one.

*HYMN

God is Here! As We Your People Meet

see page 4

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

Frank Russell

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

TIME WITH CHILDREN *On Our Hearts*

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.

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 8

Joanne Conroy

O Lord, our Sovereign,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants

you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,

to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars that you have established;

what are humans that you are mindful of them,

mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SERMON	<i>Knowing by Heart</i>	Pastor Brent
*HYMN	<i>O How Glorious, Full of Wonder</i>	see page 5

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY	<i>A Time for All Things (Wagner)</i>
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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

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP	Kaylin and Kirsten Fredsall
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BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

PRAYER RESPONSE	<i>Into My Heart</i>
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GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

*HYMN	<i>From This Very Place</i>	see pages 6-7
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*BENEDICTION	Pastor Brent
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POSTLUDE	Sean Lewis
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God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

Fred Pratt Green, 1978; alt.

1 God is here! As we your peo-ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer,
 2 Here are sym-bols to re - mind us of our life - long need of grace;
 3 Here our chil-dren find a wel-come in the Shep - herd's flock and fold;
 4 Sov - ereign God, of earth and heav-en, in an age of change and doubt

May we find in full - er mea-sure what it is in Christ we share.
 Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit, here the cross has cen - tral place.
 Here as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
 Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel, help us work your pur - pose out.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 Here in hon - es - ty of preach-ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in wor-ship to ex - plore
 Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com-ing of the Spir-it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new-ness and re - new-al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with-out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Though he retired in 1969, this distinguished British poet has continued to write hymns. In addition to administering several circuits and local congregations, Fred Pratt Green published plays, translations, and poems. Emory University in Atlanta awarded him an honorary doctorate.

Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH 8.7.8.7.D.
 Cyril V. Taylor, 1941

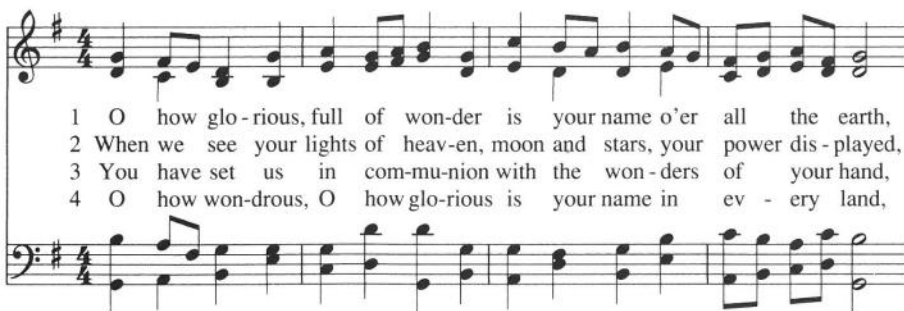
The New Century Hymnal (1995)

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

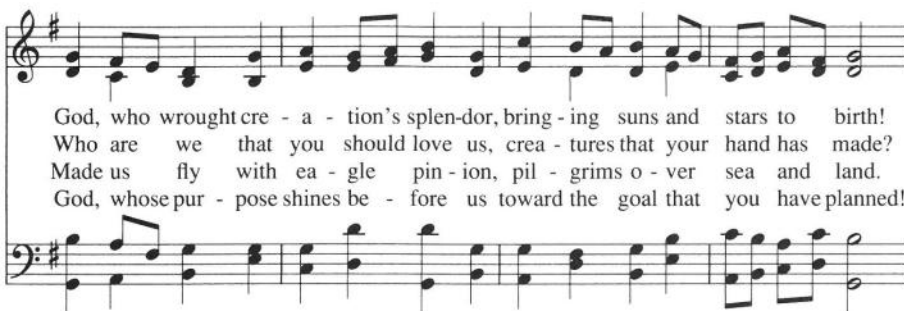
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Curtis Beach, 1958, rev. 1980; alt.

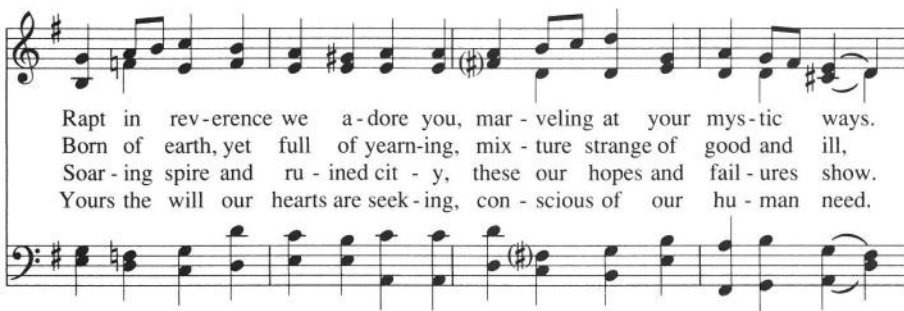
Ps. 8



1 O how glo - rious, full of won - der is your name o'er all the earth,
 2 When we see your lights of heav - en, moon and stars, your power dis - played,
 3 You have set us in com - mu - nion with the won - ders of your hand,
 4 O how won - drous, O how glo - rious is your name in ev - ery land,



God, who wrought cre - a - tion's splen - dor, bring - ing suns and stars to birth!
 Who are we that you should love us, crea - tures that your hand has made?
 Made us fly with ea - gle pin - ion, pil - grims o - ver sea and land.
 God, whose pur - pose shines be - fore us toward the goal that you have planned!



Rapt in rev - erence we a - dore you, mar - veling at your mys - tic ways.
 Born of earth, yet full of yearn - ing, mix - ture strange of good and ill,
 Soar - ing spire and ru - ined cit - y, these our hopes and fail - ures show.
 Yours the will our hearts are seek - ing, con - scious of our hu - man need.



Hum - bly now we bow be - fore you, lift - ing up our hearts in praise.
 From your ways so of - ten turn - ing, yet your love does seek us still.
 Teach us more of hu - man pit - y, that we in your im - age grow.
 Spir - it in our spir - it speak - ing, make us yours, O God, in - deed.

United Church of Christ minister Curtis Beach submitted this hymn to the editorial committee of the Pilgrim Hymnal (1958). It was one of two psalm paraphrases by Beach to be accepted. The hymn was also included in The Hymnal of the United Church of Christ (1974).

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Traditional Dutch melody
 Arr. Julius Röntgen, c. 1906
 Alternate tune: HYMN TO JOY

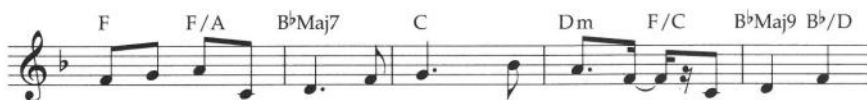
The New Century Hymnal (1995)



1. From this ver - y place, Lord, touch the na - tions;
2. Melt these hearts of stone with your com - pas - sion;



let us be a light to ev - 'ry race.
let us see oth - ers through eyes of grace.



Hear our hum - ble cry that all would know you as we go
Fill us with the fire of your sweet spir - it as we go



from this ver - y place. 'Til ev - 'ry knee bows and
from this ver - y place.



ev - 'ry tongue sings praise, 'til ev - 'ry - one hears of your



grace, we will lay down our lives and



pray that your bless - ings flow from this place.

place. We will lay

down our lives and pray that sal - va - tion flows from this place.

Let your heal - ing flow from this place. Let your

bless - ings flow from this place.



Volunteers

Growth and Fellowship, Christian Education, and the Deacons would love to have more volunteers! On Friday, October 24, you will receive the monthly invitation to sign up. If you want to learn more in the meantime, give Will a call in the church office (413-298-3137).

Together we can spread out both the work and the joy that comes from it.

Banners for All-Saints Sunday

We will be installing banners around the sanctuary on November 2, and we need your help. The banners will feature photographs of those who have passed but remain close to our hearts. Please start thinking about photos and memories. More information will be emailed this week.

Thank you to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons Drea Pecor, Gary Cilley, and Helen McCormick; readers Joanne Conroy and Frank Russell; usher Jon Geldert; fellowship Mission & Action; storytellers and teachers Jeremy Ridenour, Megan Kolano, Elisabeth Bellows, and Casey Jones. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream. Mari Brennan and Dana Sanchez are in the nursery. Thanks to Cathy Clark for the flowers.

There will be another showing and discussion of *Hear Me*, the documentary featuring young people from Berkshire County impacted by gun violence. Saturday, Oct. 25 at 2pm at Lenox Town Hall. Free.



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, 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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