



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

October 26, 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)

Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin.

To build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in.

To be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace.

Singing welcome, welcome to this place.

You're invited to come and know God's grace.

All are welcome the love of God to share,

'Cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.

SCRIPTURE READING Joel 2:23-27

Hannah Fries

O children of Zion, be glad, and rejoice in the Lord your God,
for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you
abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.

The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

continued

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army that I sent against you.
You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

*HYMN *Come, O Spirit*, vss. 1 & 2 see page 5

*CALL TO WORSHIP

by Katherine Hawke, based on Joel 2:28-32

One: Then I will pour out my spirit on all flesh, thus says the Lord.

All: Send down the fire of your justice!

One: Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

All: Send down the rain of your love!

One: Your old shall dream dreams, and your young shall see visions.

All: Send down your Spirit, breathe life in your people!

One: In those days, I will pour out my spirit.

All: And we shall be people of God.

*HYMN *Come, O Spirit*, vs. 3 see page 5

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Timothy 4:6-8 Liza Catino

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Running the Race*

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.

CONTEMPORARY READING

Grace Diggs

I Live My Life in Widening Circles, Rainer Maria Rilke

I live my life in widening circles
that reach out across the world.

I may not complete this last one
but I will give myself to it.

I circle around God, around the primordial tower.

I've been circling for thousands of years
and I still don't know: am I a falcon,
a storm, or a great song?

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Grace Diggs

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

SERMON

How to Run the Race

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

Awake My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve

see page 6

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Trinity Sunday*, by George Herbert Liza Catino

Lord, who hast formed me out of mud,
And hast redeemed me through thy blood,
And sanctified me to do good;
Purge all my sins done heretofore:
For I confess my heavy score,
And I will strive to sin no more.

Enrich my heart, mouth, hands in me,
With faith, with hope, with charity;
That I may run, rise, rest with thee.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *One Spirit of Love* (Svenson) Amy Shake, soloist

*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

MOMENT OF STEWARDSHIP Mary Hoeltzel

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS / PRAYER RESPONSE

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

*HYMN *Called As Partners in Christ's Service* see page 7

*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent

POSTLUDE Sean Lewis

Come, O Spirit

BOUNDLESS MERCY 7.6.7.6 D

John A. Dalles, 1983

Union Harmony, 1837
Harm. Hilton Rufty, 1934

1. Come, O Spir - it, with Your sound Like a wind, quick rush - ing;
2. Come, O Spir - it, with Your flame, Leap-ing tongues of fire;
3. Come, O Spir - it, fill Your church, Mak-ing strong our mis - sion;

Come from heaven and stir our hearts, Each dis - ci - ple touch - ing!
Come, and with Your glo - rious light All our thoughts in - spire!
Fill Your daugh - ters and Your sons With a might - y vi - sion,

Mold our ac - tions to Your will, You our ser - vice giv - ing;
Rest up - on each ser - vant's head Till each one is speak - ing
Till the great and glo - rious day When the whole cre - a - tion

Move with - in our fel - low - ship, Trans-form now our liv - ing!
Of our Christ, the Ho - ly One All the earth is seek - ing!
Sings Your praise as Lord and King, Giv - er of sal - va - tion!

Alternate tune: ST. KEVIN, 115

Text: © 1990 John A. Dalles. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music: Harmonization © 1934. Renewed 1962 J. Fischer and Bro., a division of Belwin-Mills Publishing Corp. All rights reserved.
Used by permission.*Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs (1990)*

Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve

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Philip Doddridge (1702–1751); alt.

2 Tim. 4:7–8; Phil. 3:12–14



1 A - wake, my soul, stretch ev - ery nerve, and
 2 A cloud of wit - ness - es a - round holds
 3 For God's all - an - i - mat - ing voice still
 4 O Sav - ior, shown the way by you, I



press with vig - or on; A heaven - ly race de - mands your zeal,
 you in full sur - vey; For - get the steps al - read - y trod,
 calls us to the race; And God's own hand still gives the prize
 have my race be - gun; And, crowned with vic - tory, at your feet



and an im - mor - tal crown, and an im - mor - tal crown.
 and on - ward urge your way, and on - ward urge your way.
 with nev - er - end - ing grace, with nev - er - end - ing grace.
 I'll lay my hon - ors down, I'll lay my hon - ors down.

This hymn is one of more than 400 written by a Congregational minister, Philip Doddridge, but none of them were published in his lifetime. Pressing on in the heavenly race is a theme found in several New Testament passages.

Tune: CHRISTMAS C.M.
 G. F. Handel, 1728

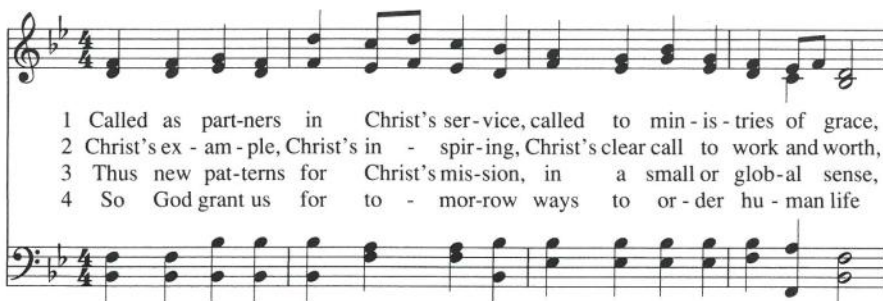
The New Century Hymnal (1995)

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

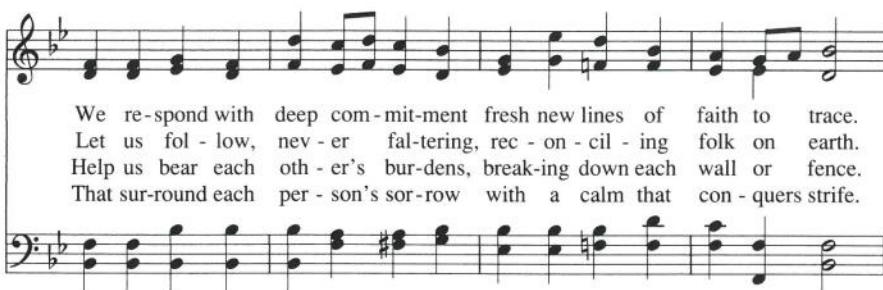
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Jane Parker Huber, 1981

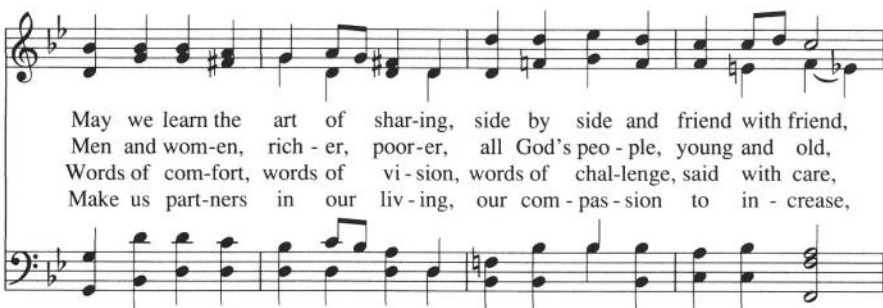
John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



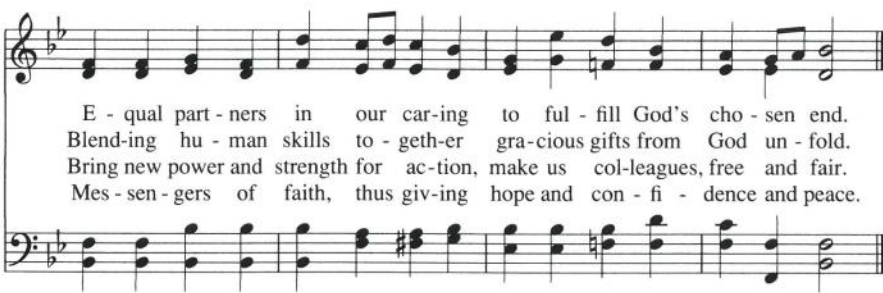
1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-gether gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1855
 For another key, see 43, 368

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

Thank you to all who helped with today's service, including Deacons Jo Ann Levitt, Gary Cilley, and Helen McCormick; readers Liza Catino, Grace Diggs, and Hannah Fries; fellowship Joanne Conroy and Vicky Cooper; Storytellers Jeremy Ridenour, Megan Kolano, and Sean Lewis. Will Curtiss is running the Livestream. Mari Brennan and Dana Sanchez are in the nursery.

Active Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pop-Up Pantry

On Sunday, Nov. 2, we will continue the practice of an Active Prayer of Thanksgiving as an act of gratitude after receiving communion. We encourage you to bring non-perishable food items and toiletries and/or money for food (cash or check), for the Pop-Up Pantry here at the church.

If you wish to contribute by check, please make your check payable to First Congregational Church, memo line: Pop-Up Pantry. To contribute via Venmo,

FCC Stockbridge, note People's Pantry on the 'What's this for?' line.

Many thanks for your loving generosity!

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 send photos to the office, along with a one-sentence description.

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 worshiping 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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