



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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
March 5, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

For those worshipping at home: you are invited to text the names of those attending to 413-644-6435 that we might welcome you. Please also include prayers of joys and concerns as we will name them in worship.

For those in church: Masks are optional, but masking is always welcome. The balcony and a section of the first floor are designated as masking required.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Peter Frost

PRELUDE

Sarabande, by Jean-Marie Leclair

FRAMING WORDS

The Rev. Dr. Richard Floyd

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT

My Song is Love Unknown

TIME OF SILENCE/BRINGING IN OF THE LIGHT

*HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

See page 5

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 121

Michael Deegan

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

Many: My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

One: He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

Many: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

continued

One: The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

Many: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

One: The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

Many: The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Floyd

CHILDREN'S TIME

Jo Ann Levitt

Children are invited to take part in Sunday School classes.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Rev. Floyd

Saving God, we are your people yet the world cannot see this.

We are your children, and fail to live in peace.

We are your voices and choose to be silent.

We are your hands and feet and walk a different road.

Forgive us, for ignoring your love,

for brushing aside your hand and trusting our own wisdom.

Enable us to worship you in spirit and in truth,

to bring to you our joyful songs in the everyday moments of our lives;

that your name might be glorified through our words and lives. Amen

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Floyd

*SUNG RESPONSE *The Old Rugged Cross, vs. 2*

vs. 2 **Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left the glory of heaven
to bear it to cold Calvary.**

refrain **So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Floyd

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Floyd

Remember to place your prayer tags in the offering plates if you would like them lifted. They will be read as written. You may also place your prayers directly on the prayer tree after worship.

OFFERTORY

Open Thou Mine Eyes

words by L. Andrews; music by J. Rutter

*DOXOLOGY

Old 100th

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**God, receive these gifts - and give us open hands
Fill our lives - and give us open hearts
Touch us with prophecy - and give us open minds
Bless these churches - and give us open doors. (Maren C. Tirabassi)**

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

A RE-IMAGINING based on John 3:1-17

Cindy Brown

Written by Cindy Brown, Marilyn Strauch, Rick Floyd

REFLECTION

How Can This Be?

Rev. Floyd

*HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

See page 8

OFFERING OURSELVES

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Ken Ward

TIME OF SILENCE

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Floyd

The 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 **Sevenfold Amen**, by John Stainer

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

- | | | |
|--|---|----------------|
| *INVITATIONS | | Rev. Floyd |
| *HYMN | <i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i> | See pages 6-7 |
| *BENEDICTION | | Rev. Floyd |
| BRINGING OF THE WORLD/TIME OF SILENCE | ~~~~~ | LIGHT INTO THE |

Music notes ~ Peter Frost

The Old Rugged Cross

This hymn, music and words, was written by George Bennard in 1913. Wildly popular, it is often considered the most popular and most published hymn of the twentieth century. At age 16, after his father died, George joined the ranks of the Salvation Army, later becoming ordained by the Methodist Episcopal Church.

I found an interesting account of his inspiration for the hymn in *101 Hymn Stories* by Kenneth W. Osbeck, Kregel Publications.

An inspiration came to me one day in 1913. I composed the melody first. The words that I first wrote were imperfect. The words of the finished hymn were put into my heart in answer to my own need.

Personally, I find the hymn to be quite corny, and quite moving, at the same time. The song was sung many times by my father with his beautiful baritone. My brother's and sister sang it with me at our father's memorial service.

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

84

RATHBUN 8.7.8.7

John Bowring, 1825

Ithamar Conkey, 1849



1. In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tower-ing o'er the wrecks of time;
2. When the woes of life o'er-take me, Hopes de-ceive, and fears an - noy,
3. When the sun of bliss is beam-ing Light and love up - on my way,
4. Bane and bless-ing, pain and plea-sure, By the cross are sanc - ti - fied;



All the light of sa - cred sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub-lime.
Nev - er shall the cross for - sake me: Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
From the cross the ra - dianc e stream-ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
Peace is there that knows no mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bid e.



POSTLUDE

Voluntary (Diapason), Anon., 18th century

Charles Wesley, 1747

Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it, In - to ev - ery
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less

earth come down, Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing,
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in Thee in - her - it,
 life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,
 let us be; Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion

All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, Thou art all com -
 Let us find the prom - ised rest; Take a - way the love of
 Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways
 Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee; Changed from glo - ry in - to

pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with
 sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
 bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove; Pray, and praise Thee
 glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Welcome! We are an Open and Affirming Church 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.

The Rev. Brent Damrow, Pastor

Peter Frost, Minister of Music

Will Garrison, Administrator

Marion Pomeroy, Financial Secretary

Will Curtiss and Will Pohl, Livestream Technicians

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100 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ROCKINGHAM LM

Second Supplement to Psalms in Miniature, 1783

Harm. Edward Miller, 1790

Isaac Watts, 1707

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the
3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sor - row and
4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a

Prince of glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down; Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss, And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet, Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

The musical score is written in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.