

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT *March* 26, 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

PRELUDE When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Bell Choir

FRAMING WORDS Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

BRINGING IN OF THE LIGHT

INTROIT O Sacred Head Now Wounded, arr. Krug Bell Choir

OPENING PRAYER Miles Wheat

Holy God, Creator of Life,
you call us out of our dark places,
offering us the grace of new life.
When we see nothing but hopelessness,
you surprise us with the breath of your spirit.
Call us out of our complacency and routines,
set us free from our self-imposed bonds,
and fill us with your spirit of life, compassion, and peace,
In the name of Jesus, your anointed one, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

In Deep Despair I Cry to You

See page 6

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Miles Wheat

One: Healing God, we come together in our brokenness, to call to you in your mercy, to make us whole again.

All: Wholeness-giving God, listen to our prayers, we pray.

One: Restoring God, we gather to worship you, even as we hopefully seek to be renewed and restored again.

All: God, our Quiet-Center, listen to our prayers this day.

One: Foundational God, we come to praise and thank you! In the depths of your Holy Being we find peace and rest.

All: God - our Beginning and our End, we hope always in you. Amen.

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WELCOME Pastor Brent

TIME WITH CHILDREN Soundtracks and Playlists

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.

Children are invited to take part in Sunday School classes.

READING Lazarus: Preparing

Note: all readings today are based on John 11:1-44 (pew Bible, page 934), as interpreted and enacted by Rich Geiler, Charlotte Rodgers, Donna Jacobs, Joe Nicolosi, and Michael Monroe.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

*UNISON PRAYER

Redeeming God, into the depths of my need—my sin, my loneliness, my guilt, my failure, my inadequacy—let down the rope of your redemption and pull me to the heights where I may live completed and whole in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*SUNG RESPONSE Beneath the Cross of Jesus tune: St. Christopher

vs. 1 Beneath the cross of Jesus I gladly take my stand,

The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;

A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,

From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

READING Lazarus: I Am the Resurrection

CALL TO THE OFFERING

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 When Jesus Wept Bell Choir

*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)

Pastor Brent

God of the wilderness, your Spirit leads us to face the truth, unprotected and exposed: in all our times of life. In this moment we overcome the temptation to keep and instead give – giving both who we are and what we have.

Meet us here in the wilderness. Bless all that we present. Shine before us the light of Christ. Empower us with the strength of the Spirit. Bring us home to your loving arms. Amen

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

READING Lazarus: Crying and the Miracle

REFLECTION Too Much Pastor Brent

*HYMN By Raising of Lazarus from the Dead See page 7

OFFERING OURSELVES

TIME OF SILENCE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Sarah Conly

PRAYER RESPONSE Three-fold Amen

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS Pastor Brent

PLANNED GIVING Tom Ruffing

*COMMITMENT Michael Deegan

Almighty God, give us wisdom to perceive you, intellect to understand you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you and life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- written by St. Benedict (489-543)

*HYMN Lift High the Cross See page 8

*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent

BRINGING OF THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD/TIME OF SILENCE

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POSTLUDE Lift High the Cross arr. by John Leavitt

Music notes

Jason Krug combines two hymn tunes in our prelude. The first is Hamburg or, *When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*, composed by Lowell Mason in 1824. Dr. Mason is noted to be the father of American Church Music. Hamburg is adapted from a Gregorian Chant. The second tune *O Waly Waly* is an Appalachian Folk Melody.

O Sacred Head Now Wounded is a part of a sacred oratorio, St. Matthew's Passion, composed by J. S. Bach in 1727. The tune for this piece was originally composed by Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612).

When Jesus Wept was composed by William Billings (1746-1800). Billings created more than 300 works during his life. Most of these were sacred a cappella four part choral works. This bell arrangement is by Douglas Wagner.

~ Mary Jo Erickson Connor

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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130E In Deep Despair I Cry to You



Words: Joy F. Patterson (b. 1931), 1991, © 1994 Selah Publishing Company, Inc. Music (MORNING SONG/CONSOLATION 8.6.8.6.8.6): Sixteen Tune Settings, 1812; attr. Elkanah Kelsey Dare; harm. David Ashley White, 1994, © 1994 Selah Publishing Company, Inc.

By Raising Lazarus from the Dead

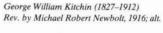
8.7. 8.7. 8.8.7.

John 11:1–44; 12:9–13 Christopher J. Neuendorf, 2013 ES IST GEWISSLICH

Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert Wittenberg, 1535, ed. Joseph Klug Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941



John 1:29-34; Rom. 5:6-11; 6:3-8; Rev. 7:9-17; 22:1-5





Since its first inclusion in a U.S. hymnal in the 1970s, this hymn has become enormously popular. G. W. Kitchin and M. R. Newbolt were Church of England ministers. Sydney Nicholson was organist of Westminster Abbey.

Tune: CRUCIFER 10.10. with refrain Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1916