

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
— Stockbridge, Massachusetts —

EASTER SUNDAY

April 9, 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.

While masks in the sanctuary are optional, we encourage you to consider wearing one as a sign of care for others. There is a section where masking and distancing are required. The Deacons are available for assistance.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Welcome! We invite you to prepare for worship. We welcome families of all types and kids of all personalities. Today there is no Sunday School as we invite all ages to experience the joy the joy of worship. We have an unstaffed nursery where you may take your children if they need a space to be, well...children. The nursery, bathrooms and changing station are all through the front doors of the Sanctuary and straight ahead. Large print bulletins are available.

GATHERING MUSIC

Selections by the Berkshire Brass:
Jeff Stevens and Allan Dean, trumpets; Tim Atherton
and David Wampler, trombones

PRELUDES

Medieval Intrada, by K. Lee Scott
The Berkshire Brass ; Tracy Wilson, organ

FRAMING WORDS

Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

***All who are able, please stand.**

TELLING THE EASTER STORY Based on Matthew 28:1-10 Margo Davis

SOLO *I Know that My Redeemer Liveth (Messiah)*, G. F. Handel
Amy Shake, *soprano*

EASTER PROCLAMATION: Pastor Brent

Leader: Christ is Risen!

People: **Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*HYMN *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* See page 8

*CALL TO WORSHIP Gwendolyn Evans

One: We are afflicted in every way...

Many: But not crushed.

One: Struck down ...

Many: But not destroyed.

One: For we are persuaded that neither death, nor life ...

Many: Nor angels, nor principalities ...

One: Nor things present, nor things to come ...

Many: Nor powers, nor height, nor depth ...

One: Nor anything else in all creation ...

**Many: Will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus
our Savior.**

One: For on Easter, God defeated death.

Many: On Easter, life wins!

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Many: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Words!*

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.

*HALLEJUAH SONG



Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - jah, Hal-le, hal-le, hal -



- le - lu - jah, Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu



jah, Hal-le - lu-jah, hal - le - lu jah!

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 10:34-40 *The Voice* translation Willow Krawczyk

Peter said to them, "It is clear to me now that God plays no favorites, that God accepts every person whatever his or her culture or ethnic background, that God welcomes all who revere Him and do right. You already know that God sent a message to the people of Israel; it was a message of peace, peace through Jesus the Anointed – who is King of all people. You know this message spread through Judea, beginning in Galilee where John called people to be ritually cleansed through baptism. You know God identified

continued

Jesus as the uniquely chosen One by pouring out the Holy Spirit on Him, by empowering Him. You know Jesus went through the land doing good for all and healing all who were suffering under the oppression of the evil one, for God was with Him. My friends and I stand as witnesses to all Jesus did in the region of Judea and the city of Jerusalem. The people of our capital city killed Him by hanging Him on a tree, but God raised Him up on the third day and made it possible for us to see Him.”

SERMON *King...Power...Why...* Pastor Brent

*HYMN *Jesus Shall Reign* See page 9

CONFESSION Alice Collins

One: Gracious God, we have heard the good news: how on the third day, Christ rose again.

Many: Still we look for the living among the dead.

One: You rolled away the stone from the tomb.

Many: Still we look for the living among the dead.

One: You sent messengers to proclaim the gospel.

Many: Still we look for the living among the dead.

One: You are faithful to your promise; you have done wonderful and amazing things!

Many: Still we look for the living among the dead. (Silent prayer)

CHORAL RESPONSE *Christus Resurrexit*, by Gordon Young

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE Pastor Brent

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

EASTER PRAYER Jeremy Ridenour

PRAYER RESPONSE *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*, by Donald Fishel

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Easter Introit and Alleluia*, by Eugene Butler
The Choir and Berkshire Brass

*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 Anne Hutchinson

**God of great gifts:
This morning we give you praise,
we give you glory, we give you thanks!
With resurrection humming in our hearts,
our minds are tuned to your song of peace!
We joyfully present these gifts to you,
a tangible chorus of thanksgiving,
a harmony of hope for your kingdom come! Amen.**

~ written by Carol Penner, posted on *Leading in Worship*, carolpenner.typepad.com

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

*INVITATIONS Pastor Brent

*HYMN *The Strife is O'er* See page 10

*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent



POSTLUDE *Walk In Jerusalem Just Like John*,
African American Spiritual, arr. Francis Bonney
The Berkshire Brass

We welcome our visitors this morning and encourage you to find ways to connect more deeply with us. If you would like to speak with Pastor Brent, call Will in the church office and he can set something up.

Thank you to the Berkshire Brass—Jeff Stevens and Allan Dean, trumpets; Tim Atherton and David Wampler, trombones; Amy Shake, soprano; Tracy Wilson, Peter Frost and the choir for providing wonderful music today. And thanks to the many people who are assisting with ministries of welcome, worship, hospitality and joy.

Music Notes

K. Lee Scott, born 1950, the composer of the Postlude is considered as one of America's foremost composers of church music. His hymns have been published in eight different hymnals. He has published over 300 compositions. He studied composition with Paul Hedwall and Gail Kubik. *Though I Know That My Redeemer Liveth*, from Handel's *Messiah* is most often used to celebrate Christ's resurrection, the words are actually from the Old Testament, Job 19:25. ~ Peter Frost, Minister of Music

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

(413) 298-3137 | office@stockbridgeucc.org | stockbridgeucc.org

All hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723107

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY THIS MORNING
ARE GIVEN BY:

- ◆ Vicky Cooper, in memory of my brother, Dr. Thomas Cogbill
- ◆ Brian Hyatt, in memory of Anne and Arthur Hyatt
- ◆ David Anderegg, in memory of my grandparents, Julius and Margaret Nelson Bubolz
- ◆ Liza and Joe Catino, in memory of our parents
- ◆ Olga Schwede, in memory of loved ones
- ◆ Cathy Clark, in memory of Franklin and Florence Clark; Carol Tatkon and David Clark
- ◆ Lynda and John Morse, in memory of our parents
- ◆ Joanne Conroy, in memory of my aunt and uncle, Aleva & Bob Henderson
- ◆ Patty Fadding, in memory of Russ Fadding
- ◆ Jane McCormick, in memory of my husband Gil
- ◆ Claire G. Williams, in memory of Jackie Hawkins
- ◆ Fay Parker, in memory of David Parker and Lin Moore
- ◆ Don, Charlotte, and Beth Rodgers, in honor of our parents & grandparents
- ◆ Kim and Tom Ruffing, in honor of our family
- ◆ Don Eaton and Holland Brown, in memory of Art & Anna Eaton and Albert & Claire Brown
- ◆ Janet Marler, in memory of Joost and Annette Gompels
- ◆ Elizabeth Young, in memory of my parents
- ◆ Mary Hoeltzel, in memory of Gretchen
- ◆ John and Janet Canning, in memory of Martha and Bill Scovill and of Kay and John A. Canning
- ◆ Tigger Bruenn, in memory of my beloved Marjie and her beloved Abed
- ◆ Ron Hanft, in memory of Joyce Hovey
- ◆ Terry Wise, in memory of Jackie Hawkins
- ◆ Ellen Lahr, in memory of my loving mother, Greta Lahr

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

Jesus Shall Reign

300

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 72; Rev. 1:4b-8

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun
 2 Through Christ shall end - less prayer be made,
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er Christ reigns:
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring

does its suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;
 borne by the Spir - it's cease - less aid;
 dwell on God's love with sweet - est song,
 the pris - oners leap to lose their chains,
 trib - utes of praise for all to sing;

God's realm shall stretch from shore to shore
 Like sweet per - fume new hymns shall rise
 And in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim
 The wea - ry find e - ter - nal rest,
 An - gels de - scend with songs a - gain,

till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 their ear - liest prayers in Je - sus' name.
 and all who suf - fer want are blessed.
 and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

The second half of a longer paraphrase of Psalm 72, this hymn was included in Isaac Watts' *Psalms of David*, a collection of psalm-based poems with New Testament orientation. John Hatton once lived on Duke Street in St. Helen's, Lancaster, England.

Tune: DUKE STREET L.M.
 Attrib. to John Hatton, c. 1793

1 Cor. 15:53-57

Latin, c. 1695

Transl. Francis Pott, 1861; alt.

Refrain (before st. 1 and after st. 4)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es
 4 Christ, by your wounds on Cal - va - ry from death's dread

ry of life is won; The song of tri - umph
 le - gions has dis - persed: Let shouts of ho - ly
 glo - rious from the dead: All glo - ry to our
 sting your ser - vants free, That we may live e -

has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia! to Refrain

A seventeenth-century Jesuit collection published in Cologne, Germany, is the earliest known source of this Latin hymn. The hymn is firmly associated with this musical setting from a Magnificat by the Italian composer Palestrina.

Tune: VICTORY 8.8.8. with alleluias
 Giovanni Perluigi da Palestrina, 1591
 Arr. William H. Monk, 1861

ACTS - Catching Up with the Spirit

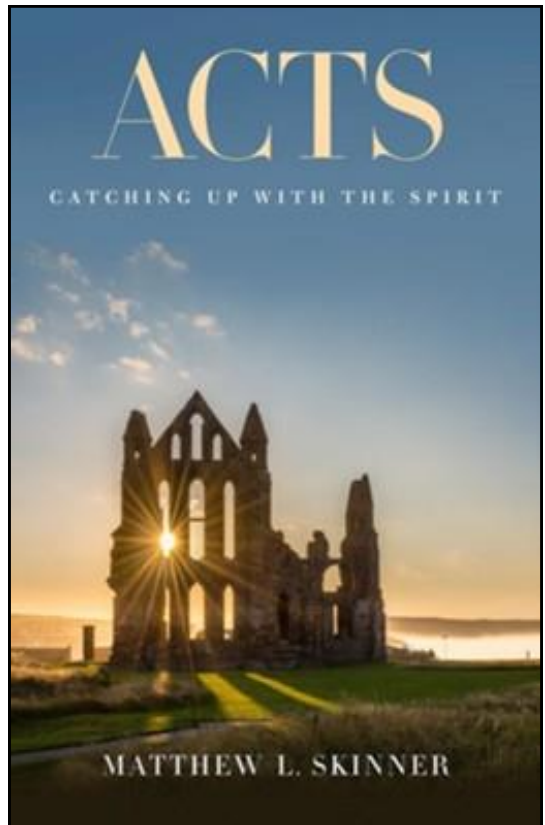
A Six Week Small Group Exploration

Beginning the Week of May 1

The “Book of Acts” in the Bible is a continuation of the Gospel of Luke, written by the same author. It recalls how the followers of Jesus lived into what they learned from his life, teachings, ministry, death, and resurrection. It is a story of radical transformation lived out by people who were inspired. Rather than complex theology, Acts far more often leans on simple truths, like shared meals, prayers, resources, and lives. It remembers the coming of the Holy Spirit and how that enabled people to live in ways true, deep, connected, and beautiful.

In this program we will both look at how the people of that time lived and how we might live today. Rather than trying to find a single answer to life, we will look closely for the questions this great text uncovers. We will ask ourselves those same questions as we try to find our own way, meaning, and purpose for our own times.

Whether you are a Bible novice or expert - whether you are a member of this church, another church, or no church - whether you are riding high or weighed down by life you are welcome at this study. To find out more, to get materials, or to sign up call the church (413-298-3137) and speak with Pastor Brent (ext. 11) or Will Garrison (ext. 10).





As You Welcome Them, So You Welcome Me

Jesus told those who follow him to welcome the children, to engage them, even to become like them! Here at First Congregational, we are delighted to have amazing kids who participate in our life. We offer music programs for kids, Sunday School (taught by many of our church family), a Youth Group (led by a team of adults), and intergenerational worship. We welcome the whole kid including their joy (and their noise), their enthusiasm (and their struggles), as well as their questions (and their wisdom). We welcome your kids too!



The **Justice Task Force (JTF)** is working to honor the history we share with the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans. We are exploring the connection of the people who once lived on the shores of the Housatonic River to the mission church that is now The First Congregational Church Stockbridge.

On **April 23**, the JTF will host an “Overview of the Early History of the First Congregational Church of Stockbridge” by local historian Joshua Hall. Please join us in the sanctuary at 11:30am. More information is on the Service & Justice page on the church’s website, stockbridgeucc.org.