



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 23, 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. A section of the first floor is designated as masking required.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

FRAMING WORDS

Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT *Blue Boat Home* by Peter Mayer, arr. by Jason Shelton

Linda Hoddy, *viola*

*CALL TO WORSHIP From the Iona Community Elizabeth Young

One: We come in worship to God.

All: In our joy and in our need, in our wholeness and our brokenness.

One: We come to God, who comes to us in Jesus

All: And who knows by experience what human life is like.

One: We come with our faith and with our doubts.

All: We come with our hopes and with our fears.

One: We come as we are, because it is God who invites us to come.

All: And God has promised never to turn us away.

*HYMN *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

See page 6

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

WELCOME

Pastor Brent

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Jesus and Justice*

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; prayers collected.

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 2:14a, 36-42 Ron Hanft

2:14a: But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,

2:36 "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

2:37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

2:39 For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

2:40 And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

2:41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

SERMON

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

We Know That Christ Is Raised

See page 7

PRAYER OF JUSTICE

Adapted from All Saints Church, Minneapolis MN

Charlotte Rodgers

Creator, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who have made their homes, their traditions, and their lives on this land upon which we gather. We give thanks to the Stockbridge-Munsee Community whose ancestral lands these are. We offer respect to those who may be interred in this land. We acknowledge the hopes and dreams of our forbears even as we remember their role in the displacement of those who were here before. Creator, restore to us a good and right mind and lead us to a place of remembrance, repentance, and reconciliation. Amen

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

PRAYER RESPONSE

Nunc Dimittis (Land of Rest)

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I'll Bid My Heart Be Still, Old Scottish Border Melody,

arr. by Rebecca Clarke

Linda Hoddy, *viola*

*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

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

INVITATION TO JUSTICE TASK FORCE EVENT

Diane Piraino

*SENDING CHARGE From the Iona Community

One: The peace of God

All: Be upon each thing our eyes take in.

One: The peace of God

All: Be upon each thing our ears take in.

One: The peace of God

All: Be upon our bodies which come from earth.

One: The peace of God

All: Be upon our souls which come from heaven.

One: Go in peace to love and give.

All: Thanks be to God.

*HYMN

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

See page 8

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent



POSTLUDE

This Is My Father's World (Terra Beata-beautiful world)
setting by Dennis R. Johnson

Music notes

I am so glad Linda Hoddy is sharing her viola and her talent with us this morning. If anyone in the congregation has kept up their instrument from their youth, please let me know if you would like to play in church.

Rebecca Clark, 1886-1979, the arranger of our offertory this morning, was raised by an American father and a German mother in England. She considered herself British-American. She was internationally known as a viola virtuoso. She also was the first professional female orchestral player. Her compositional output was not large, but her work was considered artistically powerful with considerable compositional skill.

~ Peter Frost

Justice Task Force presents: **The Early History of First Congregational Church**
You are invited to stay after church **today** to hear Joshua Hall present an
“Overview of the Early History of the First Congregational Church of
Stockbridge, mission church to the Mohicans.” Please join us in the Sanctuary
promptly at 11:30am. Josh is the Historian for First Congregational Church of
Stockbridge, and is known for his deep knowledge of the early history of
Stockbridge. There will be plenty of time for your questions! Please note that
this presentation will be available on Livestream.

Stockbridge Festival Chorus

Today at 3:00pm

The 50-voice Stockbridge Festival Chorus presents its Spring concert! The main selection is John Rutter’s *Requiem*, Jordan Rose Lee, soprano soloist, and two additional pieces by local composer Steve Murray. SFC is conducted by Tracy Wilson, and the concert will be accompanied by organ, harp, cello, flute, oboe and percussion. Admission is a donation at the door; \$20 for adults, \$10 for members of local community choruses and free for individuals 18 and under.

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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Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

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Attrib. to Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779–1847)

From Hymns for the Young, 1836; alt.

St. 1 transl. to Hawaiian by Laiana (1807–1886)

John 10:1–29

1 Sav-ior, like a shep-herd lead us, much we need your ten-der care;
 1 Ie-su no ke Ka-hu-hi-pa, Ka-hu-hi-pa ma'i-ka'i e,
 2 We are yours, in love be-friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 Let us al-ways seek your fa-vor; let us al-ways do your will;

in your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your folds pre-pare.
 Ei-a ma-kou ka 'o-ha-na ke ho'o-lo-he a ha-hai:
 keep your flock, from sin de-fend us, seek us when we go a-stray.
 Je-sus Christ our on-ly Sav-ior, with your love our spir-its fill.

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us, yours we are;
 E a-lo-ha, e a-lo-ha, a-la-ka'i a ha-nai mai,
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear your chil-dren when we pray;
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still;

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us, yours we are.
 E a-lo-ha, e a-lo-ha, a-la-ka'i a ha-nai mai.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear your chil-dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.

The theme of Christ as shepherd is familiar and beloved to Christians. Emma Lyons Doyle, granddaughter of Laiana (translator Lorenzo Lyons), once said, "If you want to know the full beauty of this hymn, hear it sung in Hawaiian."

Tune: BRADBURY 8.7.8.7.D.
 William B. Bradbury, 1859

610 We Know That Christ Is Raised

Unison

1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2. We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3. A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows

Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.
 The un - i - verse re - stored and whole will sing:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: John Brownlow Geyer, 1969 (Rom. 6:3-11)
 MUSIC: Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904

ENGELBERG
 10 10 10 with Alleluias

Words by permission of John Brownlow Geyer

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

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Fred Pratt Green, 1969

1 The church of Christ, in every age be -
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a

set by change, but Spir - it led, Must
vic - tims of in - jus - tice cry For
car - ing church that longs to be A

claim and test its her - i - tage and
shel - ter and for bread to eat, and
part - ner in Christ's sac - ri - fice, and

keep on ris - ing from the dead.
nev - er live be - fore they die.
clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.

Poet Fred Pratt Green has been a chaplain, parish minister, administrator, and playwright. Since retiring from parish responsibilities in 1969, he has been an active hymnwriter and makes his home in Norwich, England.

Tune: WAREHAM L.M.
William Knapp, 1738

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