



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

**MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY WORSHIP**

*May 14, 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

*What Wondrous Love Is This*, arr. Krug  
W. Walker, Southern Harmony 1835

Bell Choir

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Written by Christine Longhurst

One: We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God,

**All: Who, like a mother, knows us intimately,**

One: Loves us unconditionally,

**All: Teaches us the way we should go,**

One: and comforts us in times of need.

**All: Praise God,**

One: the Source and Sustainer of life!

\*HYMN

# Bring Many Names

11

Brian Wren, 1989

Gen. 1:27

## Verses

1, 2, 3, & 6

*Unison*

1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good, cel - e - brate, in  
 2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day, plan - ning all the  
 3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child, feel - ing all the  
 4 Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less care, calm - ly pierc - ing

par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.  
 won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:  
 strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:  
 e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:

Hail and Ho - san - na! bring man - y names! great, liv - ing God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na, strong moth - er God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na, warm fa - ther God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na, old, ach - ing God!

5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger,  
 on the move,  
 say - ing no to false - hood and  
 un - kind - ness,  
 cry - ing out for jus - tice,  
 giv - ing all you have:  
 Hail and Ho - san - na,  
 young, grow - ing God!

6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,  
 joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing,  
 clos - er yet than breath - ing,  
 ev - er - last - ing home:  
 Hail and Ho - san - na,  
 great, liv - ing God!

*The author states that aspects of the divine are revealed in our maleness, femaleness, youth, and age in a moving, growing matrix of life in God. The tune Westchase was composed especially for this text.*

Tune: WESTCHASE 9.10.11.9.  
 Carlton Young, 1989

WELCOME

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY

John 14:15-17, from The Inclusive Bible

If you love me and obey the command I give you, I will ask the One who sent me to give you another Paraclete, another Helper to be with you always – the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot accept since the world neither sees her nor recognizes her; but you can recognize the Spirit because she remains with you and will be within you.

TIME WITH CHILDREN *A Command and Some Help*

*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 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him--though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some

of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

SERMON *Made* Pastor Brent

\*HYMN *God the Sculptor of the Mountains* See page 6

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING (prayer slips may also be placed in the offering plate)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Simple Gifts* Shaker Melody Bell Choir  
arr. by Fisher

\*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

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS Pastor Brent

PRAYER RESPONSE

## GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

\*INVITATIONS Pastor Brent

\*SENDING CHARGE

Deacon: Go out into the world and in your words and in your lives bear witness to the Christ who has ascended to be everywhere present.

continued

Pastor: And as you come to know him, may God give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation, may Christ Jesus lift up his hands and bless you, and may the Spirit open to you all the riches of Christ's inheritance.

All: **We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Amen.**

\*HYMN *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* vss. 1, 2, 3 & 6

See page 7

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent



POSTLUDE *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (Traditional, arr. Nettleton)

Bell Choir

### Music notes

"What Wondrous Love Is This" is a Christian folk hymn from the American South. Its text was first published in 1811, during the Second Great Awakening, and its melody derived from an English ballad. Today it is a widely known hymn.

"Simple Gifts" is a Shaker song written and composed in 1848, generally attributed to Elder Joseph Brackett from Alfred Shaker Village.

Copland used Brackett's original verse for the lyrics to his one-verse song:

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free  
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gained,  
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
To turn, turn will be our delight,  
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

Several Shaker manuscripts indicate that this is a "dancing song" or a "quick dance". "Turning" is a common theme in Christian theology, but the references to "turning" in the last two lines have also been identified as dance instructions. When the traditional dance is performed properly, each dancer ends up where they started, "come 'round right." ~ Mary Jo Erickson Connor

# 2060 God the Sculptor of the Mountains



1. God the sculp - tor of the moun - tains,  
 2. God the nui - sance to the Pha - raoh,  
 3. God the dress - er of the vine - yard,  
 4. God the un - ex - pect - ed in - fant,



God the mill - er of the sand,  
 God the cleav - er of the sea,  
 God the plant - er of the wheat,  
 God the calm, de - ter - mined youth,



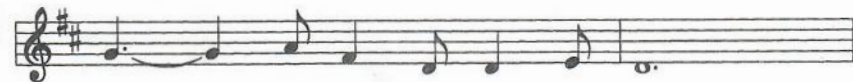
God the jewel - er of the heav - ens,  
 God the pil - lar in the dark - ness,  
 God the reap - er of the har - vest,  
 God the ta - ble - turn - ing proph - et,



God the pot - ter of the land:  
 God the bea - con of the free:  
 God the source of all we eat:  
 God the re - sur - rect - ed truth:



You are womb of all cre - a - tion,  
 You are fount of all de - liv - 'rance,  
 You are host at ev - ery ta - ble,  
 You are pres - ent ev - ery mo - ment,



we are form - less; shape us now.  
 we are sight - less; lead us now.  
 we are hun - gry; feed us now.  
 we are search - ing; meet us now.

WORDS: John Thornburg  
 MUSIC: Amanda Husberg

JENNINGS-HOUSTON  
 87.87.87

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# Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

543

Frank Mason North, 1903; alt.

Luke 19:41; Matt. 10:42; Rev. 22:20

## Verses

### 1, 2, 3, & 6

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the  
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad-owed  
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man  
 4 The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the

cries of clan and race, A - bove the noise of self - ish  
 thresh-olds framed with fears, From paths where hide the lures of  
 griefs and bur - dened toil, From fam - ished souls, from sor - rows'  
 fresh-ness of your grace; Yet long these mul - ti - tudes to

strife, O Christ, we hear your voice of grace.  
 greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.  
 stress, we know your heart does not re - coil.  
 view the deep com - pas - sion of your face.

5 O Sav-ior, from  
 the moun-tain-side,  
 Make haste to heal  
 these hearts of pain;  
 A-mong these rest-less  
 throngs a-bide,  
 O tread the cit-y's streets a-gain:

6 Till all shall learn  
 com-pas-sion's might,  
 And fol-low where  
 your feet have trod,  
 Till glo-rious from  
 your realm of light,  
 Shall come the cit-y of our God.

*This hymn was written for the 1905 Methodist Hymnal by Frank Mason North, a Methodist minister who was deeply committed to the role of the church in urban life. North later served as president of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America.*

Tune: GERMANY (GARDINER) L.M.  
 William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815

**To all members of the First Congregational Church  
of the United Church of Christ, Stockbridge, Massachusetts**

In accordance with the By-laws of the Church, we hereby call the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, May 21 at 11:00am, following worship. Included will be votes to approve:

1. Articles of Organization
2. Revised By-laws
3. Nominating slate for Officers, and Board and Committee members
4. To act upon any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

*Jeremy Ridenour, Clerk and Catherine Clark, Moderator*

Copies of reports and the proposed by-laws are available on the church website. This meeting will be available via Zoom.



After the Annual Meeting is the All-church Birthday! Stay and enjoy some amazing cakes. And if you would like to contribute a cake or have questions, contact Charlotte Rodgers or Holland Eaton.

*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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