



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

CHOIR CELEBRATION SUNDAY
June 11, 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.

****Note – on communion Sundays, we invite our children to begin in Sunday School so that they can return to the Sanctuary for Communion.****

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

FRAMING WORDS

Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT

For the Beauty of the Earth, F.S. Pierpoint/J. Rutter

*GATHERING PRAYER

*HYMN

Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace

See page 5

*CALL TO WORSHIP

by the Rev. Susan A. Blain

One: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

All: **Let our joy be complete!**

One: Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

All: **Love one another!**

One: Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will join in the new song:

All: **No longer servants but friends!**

One: Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

All: **Let us rejoice in the goodness of God!**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE / WELCOME

Pastor Brent

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SUNG SCRIPTURE *The Lord is My Shepherd* (Psalm 23) by John Rutter
Lyndon Moors, *oboe*

SPOKEN SCRIPTURE Psalm 33:1-3
**Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.
Praise the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.
Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.**

SERMON A New Song Pastor Brent

SUNG RESPONSE *A Mercy Face*, by David Anderegg See page 6
Choir: verse 1, congregation: verses 2 & 3

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *I waited Patiently for the Lord* (Psalm 40)
by Peter Frost Emily Johnson, *soloist*

*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

PRAYER RESPONSE *Seven-Fold Amen*, John Stainer

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor Brent

SHARING THE STORY / BLESSING THE FEAST

SHARING THE MEAL

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Bread: *Aire* (from "Pimpinone"), G. Telemann, arr. by Clifford P. Barnes
Lyndon Moors, *oboe*; Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

Cup: *Wayfarin' Stranger*, spiritual arr. by Peter Frost
Emily Johnson, John Demler, *soloists*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We invite you to give to your local food pantry. You can also leave canned goods and staples for the People's Pantry and the Pop-Up Pantry in baskets at each exit.

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING THE CHOIR

One: Music is an integral part of the work of the people of God.

All: God's people have always sung.

One: When the Israelites left Egypt, Moses sang.

All: When Samuel was born, Hannah sang.

One: When the exiles were in Babylon, they wondered whether their song was gone.

All: It wasn't. They still sang.

One: When the baby was born in Bethlehem heralding a new beginning it was proclaimed by choirs of angels in song.

All: When we gather to worship, we proclaim our faith, our hope, and our love in song.

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Pastor Brent

UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING

**On this day, God of love and joy, we give you thanks.
We thank you for this choir and all who have shared their gifts of song.
We are grateful for their dedication and commitment.
We give thanks for the beauty of their sound and the truth they have shared.
We rejoice for the way they have revealed your grace to us.
As their ministry for this year comes to an end, bless them with rest and peace. Strengthen their hearts, renew their voices, and shower them with contentment. God of all to you we raise this our prayer of thankful praise. Amen**

*HYMN *Great Day!* See page 7

*INVITATIONS Pastor Brent

*SUNG BENEDICTION *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*, by John Rutter



POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God* by Karg-Elert Hui-Mei Lin, organ

Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

Wayfarin' Stranger was one of the songs my father used to sing his five children to sleep with. I was singing this song in a variety show in the Catskills when a woman after the show came up to me and said that I was wrong. She told me that this song was not an "Appalachian Spiritual" but an "African American Spiritual." That raised my curiosity and I mentioned this experience to a friend who works as an historian. She found a shape-note score of this song from 16th century England. Upon further research she discovered that once this song arrived in the New World, it made its way into the southern Christian churches where the enslaved people were forced to attend with their masters. The enslaved people loved this tune and began singing it when they established The First African Baptist Church in Atlanta in 1773. In essence, *Wayfarin' Stranger* is a beautiful melding of two cultures. Simply put: this song is a Spiritual.

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DICKINSON COLLEGE LM

Francis of Assisi (1181/2-1226)
Para. James Quinn (b. 1919)

Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr., 1962

1. Lord, make us ser - vants of Your peace: Where there is
2. Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; Where all is
3. Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek To be con -
4. May we not look for love's re - turn, But seek to

hate, may we sow love; Where there is hurt, may we for -
gloom, may we sow hope; Where all is night, may we sow
soled, but to con - sole, Nor look to un - der - stand - ing
love un - self - ish - ly, For in our giv - ing we re -

give; Where there is strife, may we make one.
light; Where all is tears, may we sow joy.
hearts, But look for hearts to un - der - stand.
ceive, And in for - giv - ing are for - given.

5. Dying, we live, and are reborn
Through death's dark night to endless day:
Lord, make us servants of Your peace
To wake at last in heaven's light.

♩=104-112

This hymn was chosen by long-time choir member Jack Brown.

Choir: verse 1

A mercy face

Congregation: vss. 2 & 3

November, 2018

Words and music David Anderegg

$\text{♩} = 66$

Un-clench my brow O Lord, and let my face un-troub-led shine; Now let my hand O Lord, and take a-way this i-ron glove; Now let my heart O Lord, now touch my cold un-yeild-ing chest; And fill me

4

cloud-ed eyes shine forth like Thine; — Let my sus - pi - cion fall and let me
o - pen hand send forth your love; — Lord let my an - ger melt, now let it
with your sav - ing ten - der - ness; Lord let my ha - tred change, and teach me

7

1. e - ver show a mer cy face to friend and foe. 2. Un - clench my
ebb a - way, and in its place let mer - cy stay. 3. Un - clench my
to for-give, so in my heart might mer - cy live.

Great Day!

445

Irregular

African-American spiritual
Arr. Joseph T. Jones (1902-1983)
Adapt. Melva W. Costen, 1989

African-American spiritual

Great day! Great day, the righ-teous march-ing, Great day!

The first system of musical notation for 'Great Day!' consists of a treble and bass staff in G major and 3/2 time. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

God's going to build up Zi - on's walls. Oh, Zi - on's walls. 1. The 2. This

The second system of musical notation includes a first ending bracket labeled '1' and a second ending bracket labeled '2'. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first ending leads to the second ending, which then leads to the next system.

char-i-ot rode on the moun-tain-top, God's going to build up Zi - on's walls.
is the day of Ju - bi - lee,

The third system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The melody features some grace notes and slurs.

My God spoke and the char-iot did stop. God's going to build up Zi-on's walls. Oh,
God shall set the peo - ple free. D.C.

The fourth system of musical notation concludes the piece with a double bar line and the marking 'D.C.' (Da Capo). The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The melody ends with a final cadence.

This hymn was chosen by long-time choir member Terry Wise.

The Choir

This list reflects the current choir. Thanks to all who have shared their voices this year.

Soprano

Liza Catino

Linda Colvin

Mary Hoeltzel

Niti Martin

Olga Schwede

Amy Shake*

Terry Wise

Alto

Cathy Clark

Linda Hoddy

Deb McMenemy

Marty Noyes

Drea Pecor

Tracy Wilson

Tenor

Elisabeth Bellows

Ronnie Cunningham

Rich Geiler*

Bass

David Anderegg

Jack Brown

John Demler*

Brian Farrell

Louie Farouhar-Graff

Ron Hanft

*Section Leader/Soloist

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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