



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

HOUSING SUNDAY

June 25, 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

PRELUDE

Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

FRAMING WORDS

Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT

Morceau de concours by G. Faure

Dustin Qian, *flute*; Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

*CALL TO WORSHIP Adapted from the PCUSA Tradition

One: Let us focus on God's presence.

All: In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst ...

One: Come worship a God who feeds the hungry.

All: In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed ...

One: Come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.

All: In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumors of war ...

One: Come worship a God who offers shelter to those without homes

**All: In the midst of a world that teaches us to thin of our homes as our
fortress or castle...**

continued

One: Come worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.

All: In the midst of a world of spiritual emptiness ...

One: Come worship a God who gives life meaning.

All: Come, let us worship the Lord, whose grace and love know no end!

*HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

See page 5

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Brent

WELCOME

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY

Isaiah 58:6-9

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you;

the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;

you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

TIME WITH CHILDREN

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.

We encourage children to stay in worship, but the nursery is staffed if needed.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 21:8-21

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, 'Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.' The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, 'Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named after you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, 'Do not let me look on the death of the child.' And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, 'What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.' Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

SERMON

God Hears

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

O God of Earth and Altar

See page 6

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Carolyn Valli, Central Berkshire

Habitat for Humanity

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

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

OFFERTORY

Meditation by J. Massenet

Dustin Qian, *flute*; Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

*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

Adapted from UCC Worship Ways

As you have been fed, go to feed the hungry.

As you have been blessed with housing, go to offer that blessing to others.

As you have been set free, go to set free the imprisoned.

As you have been received – give.

As you have heard – proclaim.

As you have been loved – love.

And in your living, may you bring life to others.

*HYMN

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

See page 7

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent



POSTLUDE

Perpetuum Mobile from "Harp Sonata" by Germaine Tailleferre,
arr. by Dustin Qian

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven;
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure of the mind;

there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind - ly judg-ment given.
 and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good;
 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp-tion in the blood that has been shed;
 If our love were but more faith-ful, we should take him at his word;

there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
 and our life would be thanks-giv - ing for the good-ness of the Lord.

Words: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863), alt.
 Music: Beecher, John Zundel (1815-1882), alt.

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The Hymnal 1982 (The Episcopal Church)

O God of Earth and Altar

St. 1-2, Gilbert K. Chesterton, 1906; alt.

St. 2, alt. Jane Parker Huber, 1985

St. 3, Jane Parker Huber, 1985

1 O God of earth and al - tar, bow down and hear our cry;
 2 From all that ter - ror teach - es, from lies of pen and voice,
 3 A - wak - en us to ac - tion and forge us in - to one,

Our earth-ly rul - ers fal - ter, our peo - ple drift and die;
 From all the eas - y speech - es that make our hearts re - joice,
 de - fy - ing sect and fac - tion; O God, your will be done!

The walls of gold en - tomb us, the swords of scorn di - vide;
 From val - ue's pro - fan - a - tion, from hon - or sac - ri - ficed,
 Op - pres - sive sys - tems snare us; our ap - a - thies in - crease.

Take not your thun - der from us, but take a - way our pride.
 From sleep and from dam - na - tion, de - liv - er us, O Christ!
 Great God, in mer - cy spare us for jus - tice and for peace!

G. K. Chesterton of England was a prolific journalist, lecturer, and author of some one hundred literary works. This hymn has been updated by Jane Parker Huber to "incorporate contemporary concerns for the church's mission."

Tune: LLANGLOFFAN 7.6.7.6.D.

Traditional Welsh melody

Harm. The English Hymnal, 1906

Let Justice Flow like Streams

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Jane Parker Huber, 1984

Amos 5:14–15, 24; 7:7–8

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spark - ling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

En - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
An ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
And jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Let Justice Flow like Streams'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are provided below the vocal line of each system.

This is one of two hymns Jane Parker Huber wrote for special events emphasizing economic justice for women at the time of the reunification of two Presbyterian denominations in 1983. The text's brevity underscores the urgency of Amos' pronouncements against injustice.

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.
Aaron Williams' New Universal Psalmodist, 1770

The New Century Hymnal (1995)



Music notes by Dustin Qian

Germaine Tailleferre was a 20th Century French composer and the only female member of Les Six, a group of composers who lived and worked in Montparnasse, Paris. During her life, Tailleferre faced much derision as a woman composer, first from her father and later from her husband and press critics. Because of this, Tailleferre's works have never achieved the same prominence as her male counterparts' in Les Six, though they are no less refined. From the third movement (Perpetuum Mobile) of her Harp Sonata, written in 1953, I arranged a version for flute and piano. I hope you will appreciate this rare gem of a piece as much as I do.

Please note that childcare is available during the Affordable Housing panel discussion.

Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity

Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity builds strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

Founded in 1992, Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity has been providing homeownership opportunities for people that are working hard to provide decent housing for their families for more than 25 years. We serve Central and Southern Berkshire County.

Visit berkshirehabitat.org for more information. And please volunteer!



Church Picnic

July 16 - Save the date!

Our summer picnic will take place at the lovely Mohawk Lake in Glendale starting at noon on Sunday, July 16. Keep an eye out for more info.

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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