

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP *July 2, 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.

Each week in worship we welcome people to share their prayers with the congregation. If you like for a worship leader to read your prayer, please fill out a prayer slip and leave it in the marked basket at either entrance to the Sanctuary.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE He Leadeth Me, arr. by Hal Hopson Hui-Mei Lin, organ

FRAMING WORDS Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT Come and Find the Quiet Center, vs. 1 Page 6

*CALL TO WORSHIP written by Christine Longhurst

One: Praise the Lord!

All: With all our hearts, we will praise God's holy name!

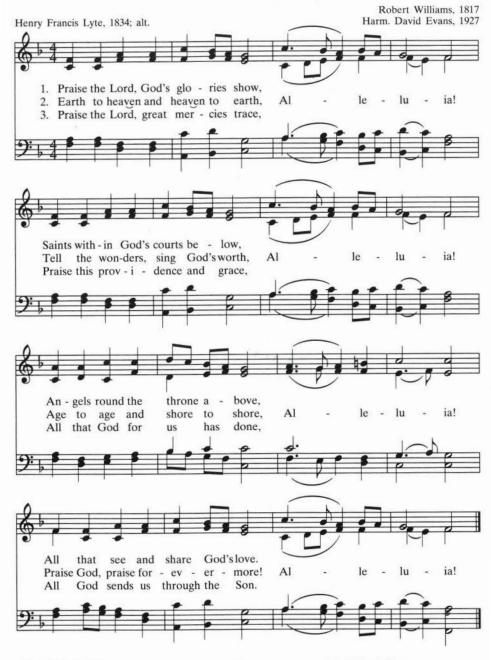
One: Praise the Lord!

All: Never forget God's grace and steadfast love.

One: Praise the Lord, all the earth—everyone, everywhere!

All: We too will praise the Lord!

LLANFAIR 7.7.7.7 with alleluias



THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY

Matthew 10:40-42

TIME WITH CHILDREN Welcome

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.

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 6:12-23

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SERMON Choice Pastor Brent

*HYMN Teach Me, O Lord, Your Holy Way

See page 7

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE Ar Hyd Y Nos (Welsh Melody)

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 Consolation, by Franz Liszt 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.

*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor Brent

SHARING THE STORY / BLESSING THE FEAST

SHARING THE MEAL

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION Let Us Break Bread Together See pages 8-9

Bread: verse 1

Cup: verse 2

Prayer of Thanksgiving: verse 3

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

*INVITATIONS Pastor Brent

*HYMN God of Grace and God of Glory verses 1, 3, & 5 See page 10

*SENDING TRUTH based on Romans 8:26-30

One: As we go forth, what can come between us and God's amazing love?

All: Nothing, absolutely nothing!

One: Can trouble or hatred, hard times or hunger?

All: Nothing, absolutely nothing!

One: Can homelessness, injury, bullying or threats?

All: Nothing, absolutely nothing!

One: Can danger or poverty, loneliness or grief?

All: Nothing, absolutely nothing!

One: Can past mistakes, failures, accidents or death,

All: Nothing, absolutely nothing!

One: So what can come between us and God's amazing love?

All: Nothing, absolutely nothing!

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POSTLUDE Trumpet Voluntary, by Henry Purcell Hui-Mei Lin, organ

Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

Franz Liszt composed *Consolation* in memory of his dear friend Frederic Chopin (1810-1849). The piece was published one year after Chopin's death.

Let us break bread together is probably the most popular African-American Spiritual written specifically for communion. In an article from "Discipleship Ministries," Dr. Carlton Young suggests that this spiritual was formed in the West African Gullah/Geechee slave culture that developed in the coastal areas of South-Eastern colonial America, including St Helena Island, Beaufort, and Charleston, South Carolina.

Come And Find the Quiet Center verse 1





William Matson, English poet and Congregational minister, wrote a poem of 321 four-line stanzas titled "The Inner Life" (1866). This hymn of obedience to Christ has been drawn from that extended poem. Tune: ROCKINGHAM L.M. Anon. Adapt. Edward Miller, 1790

Let Us Break Bread Together



^{* &}quot;Share the cup" may be substituted for "drink wine."

The earliest version of this spiritual probably began with the current stanza three, and was a song some of the enslaved in Virginia used when gathering for secret meetings. The communion stanzas were added some time after the Civil War.

Tune: LET US BREAK BREAD 10.10. with refrain Harm. David Hurd, 1983



Bread: verse 1

Cup: verse 2

Prayer of Thanksgiving: verse 3

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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1 God God glo - ry, of grace and your peo - ple 2 From the e vils that sur round us and - sail Cure your dren's chil war ring mad - ness; bend our pride to Set our feet on loft plac - es; gird our lives that y Save us from weak res na - tion to the e - vils pour your power; crown your cient church - 's sto - ry; an from the Sav - ior's ways, fears that long have bound usself your con - trol. Shame our reck less, ish glad - ness, they be ar - mored with all Christ - like may grac - es, de - plore; let the search for your sal va - tion bring its bud glo-rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, to grant us cour - age, free our hearts for Grant us wis - dom, faith and praise. grant us cour - age, rich in things and soul. Grant us wis - dom, poor in grant us cour - age, in the fight to set free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, us Grant us wis - dom. our glo - ry - more. grant us cour - age, of this hour, the fac - ing for the fac ing this hour. for the liv - ing of these days, of these days. for for the liv ing make our bro-ken spir-its whole, make our bro ken spir - its whole. lib-er - ty, lib - er the quest for the quest for ty. serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we dore.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7. John Hughes, c. 1907

Summer at The First Congregational Church

It finally feels like summer has arrived. Here are a few things about church and worship for the coming months. This can be a time of renewal, rest, reflection, and relationship. Brainstorming continues, and we will keep you posted.

Sunday Mornings

- Worship will continue to be deep and meaningful while taking on an atmosphere
 of simplicity and ease.
- Children are welcome!
 - We have staffed our nursery for the summer and welcome kids up to age 10 to spend time there.
 - Worship will include a kid's time and some related activities that children may do in the pews or the nursery.
- There will be outdoor worship on two Sundays: July 16 (in advance of the Church Picnic) and September 3 (Labor Day on the Lawn).

Chances for Connection

• Our Community Suppers are held on the second Wednesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Plans include:

A "cook-out" themed dinner on July 12.

A taco bar on August 9.

- Our Church Picnic will be July 16 following worship at nearby Mohawk Lake.
- We are planning for a "Tanglewood" afternoon at the 2:30 p.m. concert on Sunday, July 30. The program features Joshua Bell. More details to come.

Additional Outdoor Worship/Gatherings

 A small group is working to imagine additional ways to gather outdoors in worship or spiritual ways. These offerings would not replace or replicate Sunday Morning gatherings, rather they will seek to find other ways to gather as a faith community that leverage the possibilities of these months.

Other Important Details

- Office hours will continue to be from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Stop by if we can help or just to say hello.
- The Jonathan Edwards Room is now air-conditioned. On days when heat advisories or excessive heat warnings are issued, you and the larger community are welcome to take advantage of cool air, restrooms, wi-fi, and kitchen facilities.

All Church Picnic: Sunday, July 16 at 12:00 noon

Wear your swimsuits to church! After outdoor worship on July 16, head on over to the All Church Picnic at the Schneyers' beautiful gazebo with lawn sloping down to picturesque Mohawk Lake in Glendale. This is a relaxed time of picnicking, fellowship, swimming, and boating for all members of our congregation – your friends and family are welcome too. We're asking everyone to bring their own meat & buns or main dish and their own soft drinks (no alcohol) —a grill will be available. Please also bring a dish to share: salad, side dish, dessert, or munchies. Condiments, paper products (plates, napkins, cups), cutlery and ice will be provided.

This is a great day to come to church dressed for a picnic. Just don't forget to pack your bathing suit, towel, sand toys, hat, sunscreen, bug repellent, and a chair or blanket. Floaties for small children are fine, but please don't bring any large rafts or boats. There are boats available at the lake. The Schneyers have a house next to the lake where we can change clothes or use the restroom (it's a walk up a hill).

Please note that parents are responsible for their own children's safety. Mohawk Lake is a private lake and our hosts kindly request no fishing, no outside boats, and no dogs. Carpooling is encouraged as parking is somewhat limited. If it rains (which it won't!), we will find a rain date later. Any questions, ask Ted Randolph or Cindy Brown.

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Jonathan Edwards Needs Your Help!

One of the major projects of the Capital Campaign is the renovation of the Jonathan Edwards Room. While the Trustees oversee the implementation of all these projects, they need a plan for the JE Room that reflects the needs of all who use it. We have collected input from all the program boards as well as outside groups who use the room. Now, we need suggestions from individuals in the congregation. A working group, to be appointed this summer by the Council, will sort all the ideas and come up with a plan for the Trustees to work with.

There will be forms for your input in the JE Room and the Narthex. You may send them to Will in the church office or put them in a special box in the JE Room. These forms will also be sent out in the church weekly e-mail during July. We need your response by July 30. Also, we will have an in-person feedback conversation after worship on July 30. Plan to attend! ~ Ron Hanft