



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP
July 9, 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. 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 *I Love to Tell the Story*, Katherine Hankey/William G. Fischer

FRAMING WORDS Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Worship Ways based on Matthew 10:28-30

One: We have gathered in this place to worship,

All: because Jesus invites us to come!

One: We come as we are, with our faith and our doubts, with our successes and our failures,

All: because Jesus invites us to come!

continued

One: We come with what we have, bringing with us the events and experiences of this past week,

All: because Jesus invites us to come.

One: We remember the invitation and promise of Jesus who said

All: Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

One: We remember the call and blessing of Jesus who continued:

All: Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

One: We have gathered in this place to worship,

All: because Jesus invites us to come!

*HYMN

Softly and Tenderly

See page 7

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

WELCOME

Pastor Brent

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY

Matthew 10:28-30

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Yokes*

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 Song of Solomon 2:8-13, translation by Robert Alter

Hark! Oh, my lover is coming,

bounding over the mountains, leaping over the hills.

My lover is like a deer or like a stag.

Oh, he stands behind our wall peering through the windows,
peeping through the crannies.

My lover spoke out and said to me:

“Arise my friend, my fair one, go.

For, look, the winter has passed

The rain has gone away.

Buds can be seen in the land, the nightingale’s season has come
and the turtledove’s voice is heard in our land.

The fig tree has put forth its green fruit
and the vines in blossom waft fragrance.

Arise and go, my friend, my fair one, go forth.”

SERMON

Agape, Eros, Love!

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry

See page 8

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

Air by J.S. Bach

*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

Jesus Loves Me, by Warner/Bradbury

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

*INVITATIONS

Pastor Brent

*SENDING CHARGE based on Psalm 145

As you go from here, remember this:
The God we serve is merciful and compassionate,
endlessly patient and full of faithful love.
God is trustworthy in all God says,
and faithful in all God does.
So go out in confidence,
knowing that God goes with you.

*HYMN *O Lord, You Are My God and King* Pew Hymnal #252

Note: this three-page hymn is too long for the bulletin, please
use the pew hymnal for the music. The text is below:

1 O Lord, You are my God and King,
And I will ever bless Your Name;
I will extol You every day,
And evermore Your praise proclaim.
You, Lord, are greatly to be praised,
Your greatness is beyond our thoughts;
All generations shall tell forth
The mighty wonders You have wrought.

2 How rich in grace are You, O Lord
Full of compassion, merciful,
Your anger always slow to rise;
Your steadfast love You show to all,
For You are good in all Your ways,
Your creatures know Your constant care.
To all Your works Your love extends,
All souls Your tender mercies share.

3 Your works will give You thanks, O Lord,
Your saints Your mighty acts will show,
Till all the peoples of the earth
Your kingdom, power, glory know.
Eternal is Your kingdom, Lord,
Forever strong, forever sure;
While generations rise and die,
Your high dominion will endure.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Voluntary in d minor*, by William Herschel

Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

William Herschel (1738-1822) composed today's postlude. He wrote many musical works including 24 symphonies as well as numerous concerti. He was also an astronomer who built his own telescope. In March of 1781 he noticed a new object in the constellation Gemini. It turned out to be the first discovery of a planet since antiquity. There had only been five previous planets to have been discovered up until Herschel's finding. Later named Uranus, Herschel became very famous overnight.

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

(413) 298-3137 | office@stockbridgeucc.org | stockbridgeucc.org

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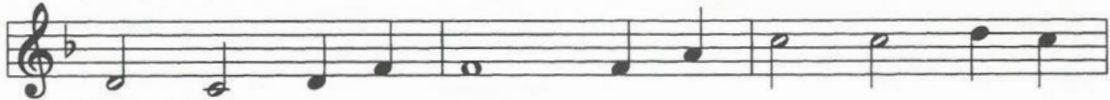
Come And Find the Quiet Center verse 1



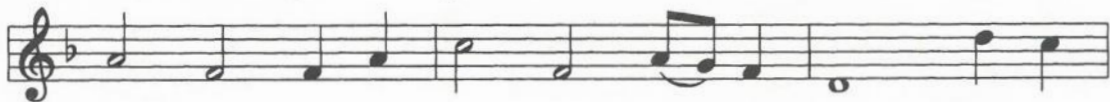
1. Come and find the qui - et cen - ter in the crowd-ed life we
2. Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the
3. In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's



lead, find the room for hope to en - ter, find the
pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our
pain, let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e -



frame where we are freed: Clear the cha - os and the
be - ing, touch-es base, mak - ing space with - in our
brate the space we gain: There's a place for deep - est



clut - ter, clear our eyes that we can see all the
think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the sun, rais - ing
dream - ing, there's a time for heart to care, in the



things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.
cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun.
Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare.

Softly and Tenderly



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me; see, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me. Come home, come home,
 mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come home,
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home,

ye who are wea - ry, come home; ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

362 I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry

CM

Isaac Watts, 1719

African-American spiritual
Arr. Richard Smallwood, 1975

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are as follows:

1. I love the Lord, who heard my cry
2. I love the Lord, who heard my cry

And pit - ied ev - ery groan.
And chased my grief a - way.

Long as I live and trou - bles rise,
O let my heart no more de - spair

I'll has - ten to God's throne.
While I have breath to pray.

Music: Arrangement © 1975 Richard Smallwood. All rights reserved. Used by permission.