

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP *July 16, 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 one of the marked baskets.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE *Meditation in Blue*, William Gillock

Ron Hanft

FRAMING WORDS

Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT I Will Do a New Thing in You, Audrey Byrd Amy Shake

*CALL TO WORSHIP by Rev. Mindi, on her *Rev-o-lution* blog

One: God of the prophets, call to us today

All: Call us into Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

One: God of the poets, remind us again how much You love us All: Sing to us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

One: God of the disciples, teach us how to follow You

All: Teach us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

continued

One: God of all creation, help us to know Your ways

All: We gather to hear Your call, to sing Your praise, to teach each other, to pray and worship as the Body of Christ

*HYMN Morning Has Broken See page 5

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

WELCOME Pastor Brent

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY Romans 8:1

TIME WITH CHILDREN No More Blame

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 Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you

shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;

instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;

and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,

for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

SERMON God's Word in Action Pastor Brent

*HYMN O God of Earth and Space See page 6

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 What Gift Can We Bring, Jane Marshall

*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

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

PRAYER RESPONSE Reflection, Harold Stover

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS Pastor Brent

*SENDING CHARGE

May the music of the hills be the soundtrack for your coming days.

May the trees cheer you on when you are low.

May the scent of the cedar and the myrtle fill your lungs with hope.

And through it all may you find joy in all your adventures and peace in all your destinations.

*HYMN Arise Your Light is Come See page 7

*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent

The Trees of the Field 2279 You shall go out with joy __ and be led forth with peace; _ break forth be - fore you; there'll be moun-tains and the hills will shouts of joy, _ and all the trees of the field will clap, will And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, __ hands. the trees of the their hands, ___ the field will trees of clap out with their hands _ while you go joy. field will clap *Clap hands. THE TREES OF THE FIELD WORDS: Steffi Geiser Ruben (Isa. 55:12) Irregular MUSIC: Stuart Dauermann

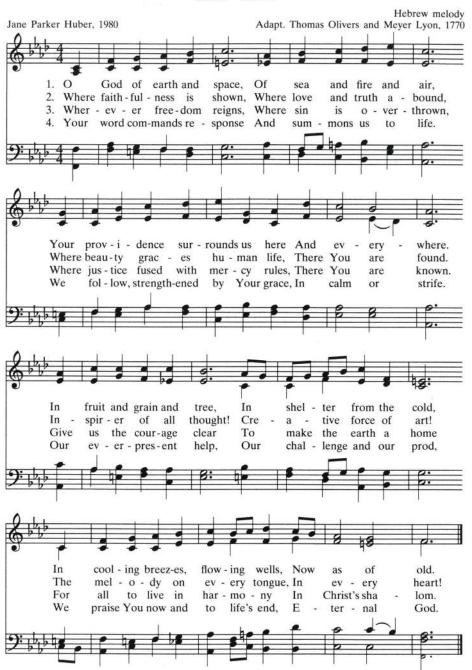
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Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D



LEONI 6.6.8.4 D



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Arise, Your Light Is Come



This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in her own collection, Dancing in the Universe.

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Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M. William Walter, 1872

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

Jonathan Edwards Needs Your Help!

One of the major projects of the Capital Campaign is the renovation of the Jonathan Edwards Room. Please make suggestions about how you think the JE Room can best be used. 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.

Forms are available in the JE Room, with an online version on the website and in the weekly emails. You may send them to Will in the church office or put them in a special box in the JE Room. We need your response by July 30. There will be an inperson feedback conversation after worship on July 30. Thanks! \sim Ron Hanft

Music Notes ~ Ron Hanft

We are very glad to welcome Amy Shake as our leading singer this week. Amy has been a soloist and section leader with the choir during this past choir season. For service music she is singing three contemporary hymns. This is a chance to hear these as candidates for new congregational hymns for us to sing. In fact, you can do that today with the sung Postlude: "The Trees of the Field." On the keyboard, I've found that some forms of jazz can help me relax and focus ("Meditation in Blue" by William Gillock), and pause in a special moment (excerpt from "Reflection" by Harold Stover). I hope these work that way for you.

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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