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

SUNG MORNING PRAYER

July 30, 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.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE

Pastorale, by Edvard Grieg

Peter Frost, organ

FRAMING WORDS

Pastor Brent Damrow

INTRODUCING NEW MUSIC

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

INVOCATION

Come, Holy Spirit



LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*HYMN Verses 1 & 4

2060 God the Sculptor of the Mountains



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WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Christians, We Have Met to Worship tune: Holy Manna

Christians, we have met to worship and adore our Holy God.

Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the Word?

All is vain unless the spirit of the Holy One comes down;

Christians, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Sung through once only.



THE GIFT OF THE WORD

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Singing

Sung Lords Prayer Mark Miller mp Our God, ho - ly is your name, __ your in hea-ven,__ reign come,_ your will done,_ hea- ven.___ on earth as slower Give us to-day our dai - ly bread, and help us for-give, as we have been for -giv- en. mf light,_ for yours is___the kin- dom, and the In the time of tri-al___ lead us in - to mp Our God, _ for - e po- wer,_ and the glo-ry,_ ver. ho - ly is ho - ly is your name, your name.



(Time for silent confession.)

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*RESPONSE



READING

Mysteries, Yes by Mary Oliver

Truly, we live with mysteries too marvelous to be understood.

How grass can be nourishing in the mouths of the lambs.

How rivers and stones are forever in allegiance with gravity while we ourselves dream of rising. How two hands touch and the bonds will never be broken.

How people come, from delight or the scars of damage, to the comfort of a poem.

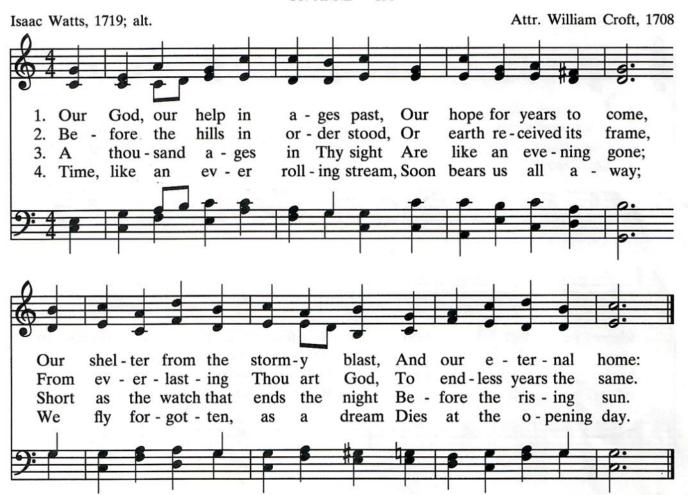
Let me keep my distance, always, from those who think they have the answers.

Let me keep company always with those who say "Look!" and laugh in astonishment, and bow their heads.

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

210

ST. ANNE CM



REFLECTION Pastor Brent



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and a poem by Carl Gustav Boberg, 1885

11 10.11 10 w. refrain

How Great Thou Art, refrain



OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

In Solitude

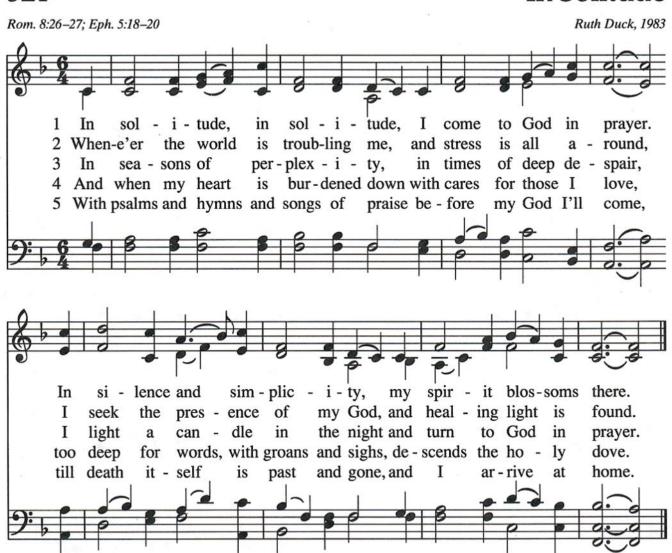
Sing Verses 1 & 2 followed by Time of Silence

Sing Verses 3 & 4 followed by Lifting of Concerns

Sing Verse 5 followed by Lifting of Joys

521

In Solitude

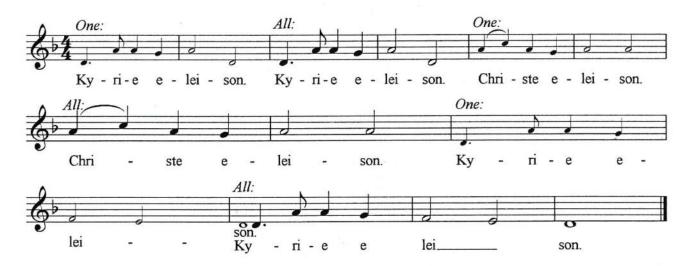


Ruth Duck has commented that "these words were inspired by a pentatonic melody which came to me as I taught myself to play the mandolin." They are an expression of her "deep-rooted southern spirituality."

Tune: LAND OF REST C.M. Traditional United States melody Harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938

PRAYER RESPONSE

"Kyrie" John Bell, The Iona Community



CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Let the Beauty of the Lord be Upon Us, Irwin Fischer

Rich Geiler

*DOXOLOGY

Laast Uns Erfruen

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.

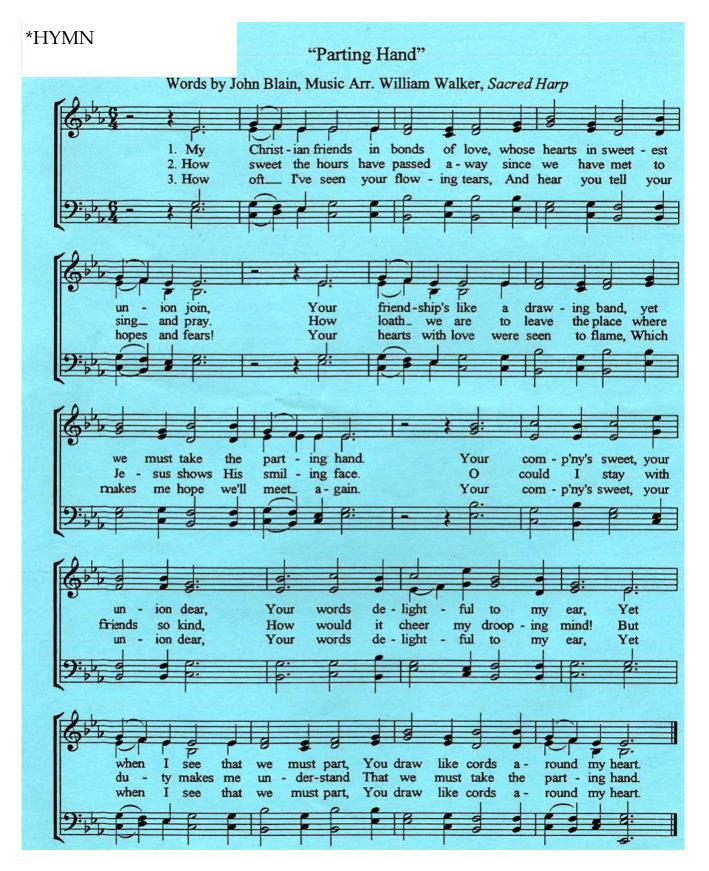
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.



Gloria (Iona) - sung twice



OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS



INVITATIONS

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Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

The offertory solo that Rich Geiler has chosen to sing this morning was composed by Irwin Fischer (July 5, 1903 – May 7, 1977) Irwin Fischer was an American organist and composer. He spent most of his career as Dean of Faculty of the American Conservatory of Music. ACM was founded in Chicago in 1886 and had to close its doors in 1991 due to bankruptcy. Fischer was also the organist for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for 22 years. Additionally he worked as a recording artist, author, and radio performer.

Announcements

The JE Room Needs Your Help

One of the major projects of the Capital Campaign is the renovation of the Jonathan Edwards Room. This is our chance to create a space that fits everyone's needs. 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 by the Council, will sort all the ideas and come up with a plan for the Trustees to work with. After worship today please join an in-person feedback conversation. Thanks! ~ Ron Hanft

Rally Day September 10

As summer winds down, we gather for a special Sunday. This church calls it Rally Day – other UCC churches call it Re-Covenanting Sunday. Both names are helpful for they describe what is a joyful day to reconnect in relationship and faith.

The Choir will be up in the loft, Sunday programs for children resume, adult studies launch, and more. It is a day where we share the adventures of our Sunday even as we set off on new adventures together as a church.

Following worship, there will be a special fellowship hour planned for the front lawn (weather permitting). Mark your calendars, bring your friends and family, come and see!

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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