



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP
August 27, 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

Tracy Wilson

PRELUDE

Songs Without Words, Felix Mendelssohn

FRAMING WORDS

Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT / TIME OF GRATITUDE

INTROIT

Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace

Isaiah 24: 3,4/Eric Thiman

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: They went to Jesus, and he asked them,

All: Who do you say I am?

One: They answered, you are the eschatological manifestation of the ground of our being, the kerygma of which we find meaning in our interpersonal relationships.

All: And Jesus said, What?!

One: Faith doesn't have to be that hard.

Life doesn't have to be that difficult.

All: Sometimes, we just have to live God's love.

Sometimes, we just have to follow Christ's way.

One: And so we are here, simply,

All: to sing, to celebrate, to worship God!

~ written by Richard Bott (revised slightly), and posted on Sharing Liturgy. liturgy.richardbott.com

***HYMN**

O Christ Jesus, Sent From Heaven

See page 6

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

WELCOME

Pastor Brent

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY

Matthew 16:13-15

TIME WITH CHILDREN

A Big Question

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.

Children are invited to stay in worship or go to the nursery.

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 1:8-2:10 NRSV translation

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and

became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

REFLECTION

Simple, Profound, Wonderful Stories

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

In Egypt Under Pharaoh

The tune “Lancashire” is also used in the hymns *The Day of Resurrection* and *Lead On, O King Eternal*.

In Egypt under Pharaoh

574

Dosia Carlson, 1989

Exod. 1:1–14; 7:8–11:10; 14:21–31

1. In E-gypt un-der Pha-raoh the Is-rael-ites were bound,
from plagues and trib-u-la-tions no re-spite could be found.
Praise God who in sur-pris-ing ways gave pas-sage through the waves.
Our Lib-er-a-tor res-cues, our Lib-er-a-tor saves.
2. From Af-ri-ca to gang-planks, a-cross a friend-less sea,
black cap-tives harsh-ly treat-ed all strug-gled to be free.
Praise God who strength-ened ad-vo-cates with power that does and dares.
Our Lib-er-a-tor res-cues, our Lib-er-a-tor cares.
3. Wher-ev-er hurt-ing hu-mans un-just-ly live in pain,
the hun-gry, home-less, hope-less, cry out for growth and gain.
Praise God whose great re-deem-ing love each ser-vant free-ly gives.
Our Lib-er-a-tor res-cues, our Lib-er-a-tor lives!

*Dosia Carlson wrote this text in 1989 for the United Church of
Christ celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Amistad event.*

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
Henry T. Smart, 1836

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 *The Lord's Prayer, Albert Malotte*

*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

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS Pastor Brent

SENDING CHARGE

*HYMN *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* See page 7

*BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE *Be Thou My Vision* Irish Hymn/Edwin Childs

Music Notes

Tracy Wilson is our organist/pianist for the morning,
and Rich Geiler is our soloist.

Adult choir rehearsals begin September 7 at 7:00pm.

O Christ Jesus, Sent from Heaven

47

James W. Crawford, 1994

John 17:17-23

1 O Christ Je - sus, sent from heav-en, Love E - ter - nal,
2 O Christ Je - sus, our sal - va - tion, Shep-herd kind, life's
3 O Christ Je - sus, Fa - ther - Moth-er, Spir - it, Tri - une
4 O Christ Je - sus, preached down a - ges, in the womb of

cru - ci - fied, wel - come Sav - ior, mis - sion bear - ing,
Bread and Wine, Word Made Flesh, God's Bless - ed Ser - vant,
Source of all, claim our wound-ed, halt - ing wit - ness;
God be - gun, pray re - store your bro - ken Bod - y,

dwel a - mong us, now re - side. Al - le - lu - ia!
wash - ing feet shows your de - sign. Al - le - lu - ia!
we sur - ren - der to your thrall. Al - le - lu - ia!
born when Cal - vary's work was done. Al - le - lu - ia!

Way of An - guish, sow your peace, with us a - bide.
Liv - ing Wa - ter, slake our hearts with grace di - vine.
Truth In - car - nate, stir us with your ser - vant call.
Life for Oth - ers, hear our plea: "May all be one!"

James W. Crawford served as minister of the Old South Church in Boston for more than twenty years. His text uses imagery from the Gospel of John to indicate that the church's unity lies in the risk and hope of loving service.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry Purcell, c. 1680
Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842
Alternate tune: REGENT SQUARE

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Luke 2:29; Rom. 1:16

Attrib. to John Fawcett, 1773; alt.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2 We give thanks and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
 3 So that when your love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the

joy and peace; Let us each your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound; May the fruits of your sal - va - tion
 world a - way, Fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: Oh, re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: Ev - er faith - ful,
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey: May we ev - er,

oh, re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found.
 may we ev - er live with you in end - less day.

Influenced by George Whitefield's preaching, John Fawcett joined the Baptist church, and served as minister in Wainsgate, England, for fifty-four years. Yielding to the persuasion of his parishioners, he declined invitations to move elsewhere. He wrote more than 160 hymns.

Tune: SICILIAN MARINERS 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 Sicilian melody, 18th century
 The European Magazine and Review, 1792

"Christmas in August" Needed: donations of new items to be distributed to local veterans, eg. men's undershirts & toiletries. More information at the donation boxes in the Narthex, the JE Room, the back hallway under the coat rack, and inside the Pop-Up Pantry Shed behind the office wing.

Tag Sale!

Donate! Volunteer! Buy! Labor Day, 9:00am - Noon.

Scholarship Announcement

Calling all students who are matriculated in undergraduate or graduate programs: If you're a church member, or child of a church member or employee, please apply for a scholarship by August 30. Send an email to Will (office@stockbridgeucc.org).

Help Wanted

Job Title: Assistant Nursery Care Provider, for 2-2.5 hours each Sunday. For more details, contact the church office.

Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 10

As summer winds down, we traditionally gather for a special Sunday - a joyful day to reconnect in relationship and faith. On September 10 we kick-off the program year for the church. 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).

Cathedral of the Beloved

On September 24 we have another opportunity to cook and serve to feed our Pittsfield brothers and sisters. Please sign up in the JE room to help cook on Saturday, the 23rd and/or serve on Sunday, the 24th.

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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