



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

September 3, 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.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

Peter Frost

FRAMING WORDS

Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT

O Jesus, I Have Promised, by Mann/Burroughs

*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Matthew 11:28-30)

One: Siblings, Parents, Relatives, Friends--

All: come and worship!

One: Even if you're tired and worn out –

All: come and worship!

One: Lay down the heavy things you are carrying –

All: come and worship!

One: Listen to what Jesus wants to tell you –

All: come and worship!

One: See if you can discover how Jesus wants to use you –

All: come and worship!

One: For Jesus is humble and gentle,

and he will give us everything we need to follow him.

~ Christine Longhurst, re:Worship

*HYMN *Sanctuary (sung twice)* See page 5

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

WELCOME Pastor Brent

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY Mark 1:16-20

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Blessing of the Backpacks*

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.

SONG *Halle Halle Hallelujah* See page 5

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

REFLECTION *Showing Up...For Others* Pastor Brent

*SUNG RESPONSE *They'll Know We are Christians* See page 6

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

*UNISON PRAYER *And then you*, written by Walter Brueggemann

We arrange our lives as best we can,
to keep your holiness at bay,
with our pieties
our doctrines,
our liturgies,
our moralities,
our secret ideologies,

Save, virtuous, settled.

And then you -

you and your dreams,
you and your visions,
you and your purposes,
you and your commands,
you and our neighbors.

We find your holiness not at bay,

But probing, pervading,
Insisting, demanding.

And we yield, sometimes gladly,
Sometimes resentfully,
Sometimes late...or soon.

We yield because you, beyond us, are our God.

We are your creatures met by your holiness,
By your holiness made our true selves.

And we yield. Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *The Gift of Love (Waly, Waly)* arr. John Carter

*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

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE Pastor Brent

SUNG RESPONSE *Time Now to Gather* See page 7

SHARING THE STORY / BLESSING THE FEAST

We will be sharing the meal through the practice of intinction. Whenever you are ready you may come forward to receive the bread and cup. If you would prefer, we also have kits which you can take back to your pew to consume there. If you cannot come forward we will bring the meal to you.

SUNG PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *Halle Halle Hallelujah* See p. 5

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 the baskets.

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS Pastor Brent

*HYMN *I've Got Peace Like a River* See page 8

*BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*
(based upon *Mit Freuden Zart*) arr. by Bob Burroughs

All hymns are from *The Faith We Sing* (2000).

2164

Sanctuary

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
 ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a
 liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

WORDS: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs
 MUSIC: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

SANCTUARY
 Irregular

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2026

Halle, Halle, Halleluja

Hal - le, Hal - le, Hal - le - lu - ja! Hal - le, Hal - le, Hal -
 le - lu - ja! Hal - le, Hal - le, Hal - le -
 lu - ja! Hal - le - lu - ja! Hal - le - lu - ja!

WORDS: Trad. Caribbean
 MUSIC: Trad. Caribbean

HALLE, HALLE
 Irregular

2223 They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love



1. We are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,
4. All praise to the Fa-ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir-it, we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je-sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re-stored:
and to - geth-er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard hu-man dig - ni - ty and save hu-man pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our



love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love. _____

WORDS: Peter Scholtes (John 13:34-35; Eph. 4:4-6)
MUSIC: Peter Scholtes

ST. BRENDAN'S
76.76.86 with Refrain

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Time Now to Gather

2265



1. Time now to gath - er, time now to feel
2. Time to re - mem - ber Christ who was sent.
3. All who are hun - gry, come, and be fed.



Christ's ho - ly pres - ence grac - ing this meal.
Time to say, "Thank you" for all he meant.
Serve one an - oth - er this cup and bread.



Grain from the har - vest, fruit of the vine;
Come to this ta - ble. Come, with - out fear.
All who are trou - bled, hurt - ing, or sad,



sim - ple the sup - per, sa - cred the sign.
God will for - give you, wel - come you here.
come, and find heal - ing. Come, and be glad!

WORDS: Mary Nelson Keithahn (Luke 22:19-20)

MUSIC: John D. Horman

WELCOME SONG

54.54 D

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I've Got Peace Like a River

2145

1. I've got peace like a riv-er, I've got peace like a

riv-er, I've got peace like a riv-er in my

soul. I've got riv-er in my soul.

2. I've got joy like a fountain ...

3. I've got love like an ocean ...

WORDS: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual

PEACE LIKE A RIVER
77.11 D

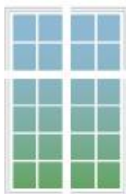
Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

"Waly, waly" (Offertory) is a Scottish Folksong simply translated: The Water is Wide. Cecil Sharp published the song in *Folk Songs From Somerset* in 1906. This tune is still very popular today. Part of the enduring popularity of this song can be attributed to Pete Seeger who popularized it during a folk festival in the 1960's.

Mit Freuden Zart (Postlude) is a very old hymn tune. The tune first appeared in the *Bohemian Brethren Hymnal* in 1566. This rounded bar form (AABA) is one of the great tunes from the Reformation.

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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