



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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
*October 8, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.*

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.

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

PRELUDE

*Reflection*, by Peter Frost

FRAMING WORDS

Pastor Brent Damrow

## **GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT / TIME OF GRATITUDE

\*SONG

*What a Covenant*, vss. 1 & 3

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Drea Pecor

One: In a world that cries out, "Fear me!"

**All: We will listen to Jesus' words, "Don't be afraid!"**

One: In a world that wants us to hate the other...

**All: We will live Jesus' call to, "Love God.**

**Love your neighbour, as you love yourself."**

One: In a world that radicalizes...

**All: We, too, will be radical. Radical with our hospitality.**

**Radical with our hope. Radical with our love.**

continued

One: Then come to this place, ready to be who we are called to be.

**All: Let us gather together and worship God.**

~ written by Richard Bott, posted on **Sharing Liturgy**. [liturgy.richardbott.com/](http://liturgy.richardbott.com/)

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

*Commandments*

*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 may go to music / story time.

INTROIT

*My Lord! What a Morning*

Sung by Liza Catino, Katha Chamberlain, Amy Ukena

CONTEMPORARY READING Sara Miles, *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion*

Jeremy Ridenour

“What I heard, and continue to hear, is a voice that can crack religious and political convictions open, that advocates for the least qualified, least official, least likely; that upsets the established order and makes a joke of certainty. It proclaims against reason that the hungry will be fed, that those cast down will be raised up, and that all things, including my own failures, are being made new. It offers food without exception to the worthy and unworthy, the screwed-up and pious, and then commands everyone to do the same. It doesn't promise to solve or erase suffering but to transform it, pledging that by loving one another, even through pain, we will find more life. And it insists that by opening ourselves to strangers, the despised or frightening or unintelligible other, we will see more and more of the holy, since, without exception, all people are one body: God's.”

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Cathedral of the Beloved

Cindy Brown

\*HYMN

*Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

See page 6

WELCOME

Pastor Brent

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING	Deuteronomy 5:1-21, 6:4-9	Jeremy Ridenour
SERMON	<i>Hinge</i>	Pastor Brent
*HYMN	<i>God Marked a Line and Told the Sea</i>	See page 7

## 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	<i>Song for World Peace, Two Ancient Texts</i>	Haugen/Grundahl
	Sung by Liza Catino, Katha Chamberlain, Amy Ukena	

*DOXOLOGY	Lasst Uns Erfreuen
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**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

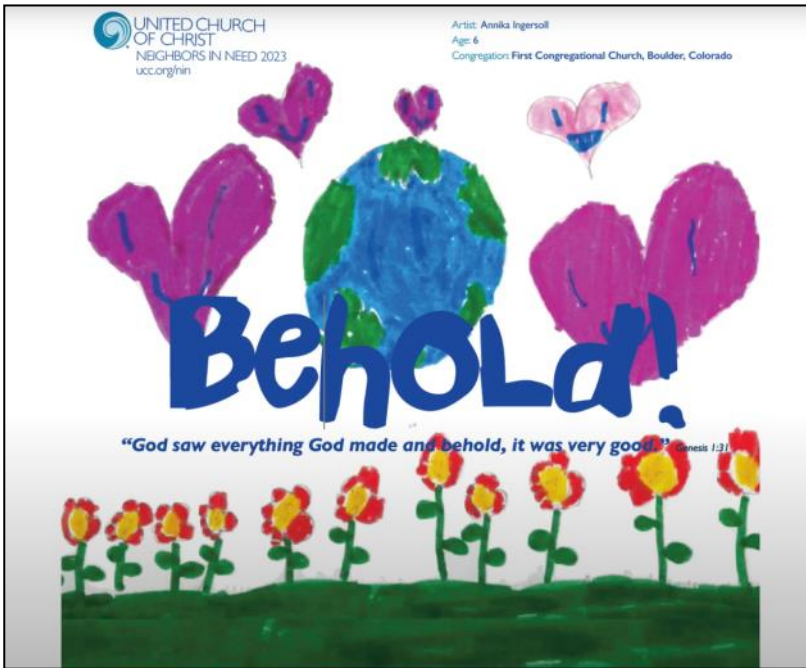
*SENDING CHARGE	written by Nathan Nettleton	Drea Pecor
Siblings in Christ, go out into the world and love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love others as you love yourself.	And may God give you justice and freedom; May Christ Jesus set you free for love; and may the Holy Spirit go where you go .....and protect you on your way.	

INVITATIONS	Pastor Brent
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*HYMN	<i>In the Midst of New Dimensions</i>	See page 8
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*BENEDICTION	Pastor Brent
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BENEDICTION RESPONSE	<i>Love is Love is Love is Love, Abbie Betinis</i>
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In 2023, the Neighbors in Need theme BEHOLD! continues. This year's focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet!

### Music Notes

Composer Abbie Betinis writes: "Love is Love is Love is dedicated to the victims, and survivors, of hate crimes everywhere, and specifically for those at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando on June 12, 2016. Love is often the bravest thing we do. May love prevail."

When Joe and I moved to the Berkshires, we knew we wanted to attend First Church. My Mom, Meta Ukena, was a member while she was at Kimball Farms and we accompanied her many times on Sunday mornings. Both my parents were church musicians so my siblings and I grew up singing in church. I look forward to introducing you all to my sisters, Katha and Amy. Gratefully, Liza Catino

*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.*

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

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Verses  
1 & 3*Deut. 33:27**Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.*

1 What a \*cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

*Refrain*

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

\*Or, "fellowship"

*In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms." Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.*

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain  
 Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

# Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song 314

BRIDEGROOM 8.7.8.7.6

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982

Peter Cutts, 1969

1. Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, Like the chal - lenge of her  
 2. To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, To the branch - es of the  
 3. With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, With the cease - less voice of

flight, Like the vig - or of the wind's rush, Like the  
 Vine, To the church in faith as - sem - bled, To her  
 prayer, With the power to love and wit - ness, With the

new flame's ea - ger might:  
 midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.  
 peace be - yond com - pare:

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♩=88-92

# God Marked a Line and Told the Sea

568

Thomas H. Troeger, 1986

Job 38:1-11; Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7

1 God marked a line and told the sea its  
 2 God set one lim - it in the glade where  
 3 The line, the lim - it, and the law are  
 4 But, dis - con - tent with fi - nite powers, we  
 5 We are not free when we're con - fined to

surg - ing tides and waves were free To trav - el up the  
 tempt - ing, fruit - ed branch - es swayed. And that first lim - it  
 pat - terns meant to help us draw A bound be - tween what  
 reach to take what is not ours And then de - fend our  
 ev - ery wish that sweeps the mind. But free when free - ly

slop - ing strand but not to o - ver - take the land.  
 stands be - hind the lim - its that the law de - fined.  
 life re - quires and all the things our heart de - sires.  
 claim by force and swerve from life's in - tend - ed course.  
 we ac - cept the sa - cred bounds that must be kept.

Thomas Troeger has provided the following commentary on this text: "It was written as a polemical poem to counter spurious ideas of freedom as undisciplined license, and to affirm how the profoundest liberty involves a sense of boundaries and structure."

Tune: KEDRON L.M.  
 Attrib. to Elkanah Kelsay Dare in  
 Amos Pilsbury's United States Harmony, 1799

# In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,  
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ple, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,  
 3 As we stand a world di-vid-ed by our own self- seek-ing schemes,  
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,  
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-dering in their sep-arate ways?  
 Who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?  
 Grant that we, your glob-al vil-lage, might en-vi-sion wid-er dreams.  
 Each a gift in your cre-a-tion, each a love song to be sung.  
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

*Refrain*  
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev-er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain  
 Julian Rush, 1985  
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994