

The First Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ Stockbridge, Massachusetts
TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY February 11, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Each week in worship we welcome people to share their prayers. If you would like for a worship leader to read your prayer, fill out a prayer slip.

Nursery care is available during the worship service; please ask an usher if you need directions.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDES Music honoring Black History Month Peter Frost

FRAMING WORDS Pastor Brent Damrow

INTROIT Opus 11, Prelude No. 5 in D Major, Alexander Scriabin Elisabeth Bellows, piano

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT / TIME OF GRATITUDE

*GATHERING SONG Christ Beside Me See page 5

SCRIPTURE Mark 8:27-30 Jon Geldert, Ted Randolph, Patty Strauch

*CALL TO WORSHIP inspired by Mark 8:29, from Spill the Beans Ron Hanft

One: In the name of the Lord Jesus the bread breaker

Kids: the light gatherer

Adults: cross carrier
One: welcome.

One: May the peace of the Lord Jesus the peace maker

Kids: and the temple disturber

Adults: friend of the sinner and companion on the road

continued

One: be with us all.

One: Let us draw close to the Lord Jesus the savior

Kids: the healer *Adults:* the teacher

One and worship him

One: Here and now we ask ourselves

All: who do we say Jesus is?

*HYMN Ask Me What Great Thing I Know See page 6

WELCOME Pastor Brent

TIME WITH CHILDREN Trying Our Best

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 8:31-9:1

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.' And he said to them, 'Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.'

TIME WITH CHILDREN

O Peter...

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Christ Jesus sent from Heaven:

You show us the way to life and salvation and yet we hold onto our own schemes. You invite us into the depth of good news and yet we cling to what we currently know. You plan abundance and yet we are satisfied with the

continued

scarcity we can imagine. We come before you now in the silence of our confessions. (time for Silent Prayer)

SHARING OF GOOD NEWS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 9:2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not

know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

KIDS SPECIAL PROJECT

Pastor Brent

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

CONTEMPORARY READING Marilynne Robinson

David Anderegg

SERMON

Courage

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

See page 7

Note: During this hymn, if you would like to submit a prayer request on a note card, simply raise the card and a Deacon will come to get it from you.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

Opus 11, Prelude No. 12 in G# Minor,

Alexander Scriabin

Elisabeth Bellows

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY Improvisation on "Steal Away" (Spiritual), arr. by Peter Frost

*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

Pastor Brent

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

*SENDING CHARGE adapted from the Narrative Lectionary Ron Hanft Lord of light, as you were transfigured on the mountain, your followers were given a glimpse of your glory. Shine your light in our lives so that we will know how truly marvelous you are. Amen

*HYMN Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory See pew hymnal #73

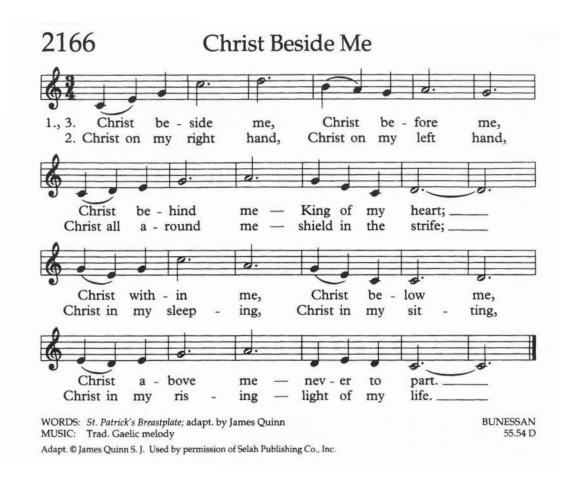
*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent

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POSTLUDE Celebration, by James Denton

Music Notes ~ Elisabeth Bellows

Because I studied with very traditional piano teachers, I was not exposed to Scriabin until 6 months ago when a Spotify algorithm presented me with the G# Minor Prelude. I rushed to the computer to find out who wrote such a short but sweet bit of music. It turns out that Scriabin wrote 24 Preludes, early in his career when he was highly influenced by Chopin. I love these Preludes for the tender yearning melodies, the shimmering dissonant harmonies, and the elegant compositional design seamlessly packed into a mere 90 seconds of sound.



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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.

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Ask Me What Great Thing I Know

49

Johann C. Schwedler, 1741
Transl Benjamin H. Kennedy, 1863: alt

1 Cor. 2:2; Gal. 6:14

H. A. César Malan, 1827



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of Germany, was author of more than 450 hymns. This hymn was

frequently used at funerals in Schwedler's native Silesia.



News and Announcements

Kids' Special Music

Today's appearance has been postponed due to illness. Rescheduled to March 10.

Lent schedule

Growth & Fellowship will start the season by serving King Cakes at Fellowship Hour on Feb. 11. On Ash Wednesday, there is imposition of ashes from 12:00-2:00pm in the sanctuary, then a joint service at 5:30pm at the West Stockbridge Village Congregational Church.

Warm Up the Winter: Construct Fundraiser

On February 18 and 25, the Board of Mission and Action invites the congregation to consider donating to this fundraiser. There will be a giving table at fellowship hour on those two days, staffed by Tristan Osgood.

Lenten Study: "Befriending Death"

The Board of CE is preparing small group sessions centered around the topic of death - whether our own or the death of someone we love. We will be leaning on a beautiful, small work by Henri Nouwen, "Our Greatest Gift - A Meditation on Dying and Caring."

More information coming soon.

200 Years of History

Upcoming Book about the 1824 Church When the capital campaign was started in 2020, several members and friends realized that there was no up-to-date history of the church and that such a history would be of great interest to members and friends.

The history of the third home of The First Congregational Church will be published this year. The working group will be publishing brief advance peeks of human interest vignettes in the monthly newsletter over the next few months to whet your appetite.

Stockbridge Festival Chorus

Rehearsals begin today at The First Congregational Church. The Spring Concert will celebrate the life of Alice Parker; the major work will be Parker's Melodious Accord: A Concert of Praise. Rehearsals are every Sunday, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm preparing for the concert on April 27. The chorus is open to any interested singer, February 25 is the last day to join. Singers can miss no more than three rehearsals. Dues are \$40 and music will be distributed at the first rehearsal attended. Scholarships are available. Questions? Contact Tracy Wilson, the Festival Chorus Director.