



*The First Congregational Church
of the United Church of Christ
Stockbridge, Massachusetts*
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
February 18, 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

GATHERING MUSIC

Peter Frost

PRELUDE

Adagio, by Tommaso Albinoni, arr. by S.D. Wolff

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

TOLLING OF THE HOUR / BRINGING OF THE LIGHT / TIME OF GRATITUDE

*HYMN *O Love, How Deep, How Real, How High*, vss. 1-3 Pew Hymnal #83

*CALL TO WORSHIP Adapted from Thom Shuman

Liza Catino

One: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,
following Jesus wherever he leads us.

**All: Lent calls us to journey:
to the place where God covenants with us,
to receive the new names we are given.**

One: Lent calls us to worship together,
to tell future generations the good news.

All: Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

continued

One: Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

**All: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

One: Lent calls us to listen to Christ.

All: Let us worship God, knowing that Christ is with us here and now.

TIME WITH CHILDREN *Journey*

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 *When Jesus Wept*, by William Billings

CONTEMPORARY READING by Dorothy Day, from *The Catholic Worker*

Don Rodgers

Yes, the poor we are always going to have with us, our Lord told us that, and there will always be a need for our sharing, for stripping ourselves to help others. It will always be a lifetime job. But I am sure that God did not intend that there be so many poor....It is the way we have arranged it, and so it is up to us to change it.

To attack poverty by preaching voluntary poverty seems like madness. But again, it is direct action...To be profligate in our love and generosity, spontaneous. to cut all the red tape of bureaucracy! The more you give away, the more the Lord will give you to give. It is a growth in faith. It is the attitude of the man whose life of common sense and faith is integrated. To live with generosity in times of crisis is only common sense.

SUNG PSALM

Psalm 19:7-10

John Demler will sing verses 7 & 9; the congregation will join verses 8 & 10.

Response Antiphon: Jean Slates Hawk, 1994

Unison G D/F# E7 Am D7 G

O God, you are my rock and my re-deem-er.

⁷The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of God are sure, making wise the simple;

⁸the precepts of God are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of God is clear, enlightening the eyes;

⁹the fear of God is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of God are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Repeat the Response.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE / PASSING THE PEACE

TESTIMONIAL

Margo Davis

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:17-31

Drea Pecor

SERMON

Clinging

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision, vss. 1-3

See page 6

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Incline Thine Ear, O Lord by J.S. Bach,
arr. by Robert Hebble

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God through-out these for - ty days. Praise

Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spir-it who im -

parts God's love in Christ in - to our hearts. A - men.

WORDS: G. W. Dub Shepherd, 2006
MUSIC: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

OLD 100TH
LM

Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church,
PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003. Web site <http://www.umcworship.org>.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of the wilderness, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves; May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen ~ written by Joanna Harade

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

PRAYER RESPONSE *When Jesus Wept*, by William Billings

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

Warm up the Winter, Cindy Brown

*SENDING PRAYER written by Ann Siddall

David Anderegg

O God, help us to use this season of Lent
to examine our attachments,
and to sense where You invite us
to live more simply and deeply.

Shine the light of Your love
into the private corners of our lives
where we have acquired so much clutter
that it has begun to restrict our freedom.

Grant us the strength to free ourselves
from appetites and needs that drive us
into taking, having and wanting
more than we need or have time for.

Teach us that in letting go
we become free, rather than deprived,
generous rather than covetous,
and spacious rather than restricted.

We offer You our Lenten observance,
and today we place our feet
on the road to Easter, and walk
the Way that You have walked before
us. Amen.

*SENDING SONG

O Savior, Let Me Walk with Thee, vs. 1

See page 7

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent



POSTLUDE

Deep River, arr. by David H. Hegarty

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

All hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723107

Be Thou My Vision

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

thou my best thought by day or by night,
 thou my re - deem - er, my love thou hast won,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

WORDS: Irish song (8th century); tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.

MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963

SLANE
10 10.9 10

Harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House

The Chalice Hymnal (1995)

O Savior, Let Me Walk with You

Washington Gladden, 1879; alt.

1 O Sav - ior, let me walk with you in earth - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; let me be in clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; Tell me your se - cret,
 win - ning word of love. Teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, In work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - ening way, In peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
 you can give, with you, O Sav - ior, let me live.

Washington Gladden was a Congregational minister, distinguished preacher and lecturer, and author of over thirty works. Gladden wrote extensively on civic and social affairs of his day. This hymn was penned in 1879 and published in his periodical, The Sunday Afternoon.

Tune: MARYTON L.M.
 H. Percy Smith, 1874

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

Land Acknowledgement

It is with gratitude and humility that we acknowledge that we are learning, speaking, gathering, and worshipping on the ancestral homelands of the Mohican people, who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We pay honor and respect to their ancestors past and present as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable space for all. *Approved at the Annual Meeting, February 4.*

News and Announcements

Warm Up the Winter: Construct Fundraiser Today

Today and next Sunday (February 25), the Board of Mission and Action invites the congregation to donate to this fundraiser. There will be a giving table at fellowship hour today and next Sunday, staffed by Tristan Osgood. Donations only in the form of checks, made payable to "Construct Inc." with memo line "Warm Up the Winter." If you wish to donate but are not able to do so by check, please see Cindy Brown at coffee hour to learn how to donate cash or online. Learn more at constructberkshires.org

Lenten Study: "Befriending Death"

Group sessions centered around the topic of death - our own or the death of someone we love. We will be leaning on Henri Nouwen's "Our Greatest Gift - A Meditation on Dying and Caring." See info on the JE Room bulletin board.

Stockbridge Festival Chorus

The Spring Concert will celebrate the life of Alice Parker. Rehearsals are Sundays, 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. Questions? Contact Tracy Wilson, SFC Director.

William Billings 1746-1800

Almost all of the music William Billings wrote was written for SATB Choir to be sung a cappella. He was a tanner by trade and was good friends with Paul Revere and Samuel Adams. Though he was a self-taught musician, he was an itinerant master in the singing-school tradition of his day. He did much to further the music reading skills of many in early America. He was also a respected conductor, publisher, and composer of considerable fame. His simple four-part round which the choir will sing today, is one of my favorite Billings compositions.