

The First Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ Stockbridge, Massachusetts CARE FOR CREATION SUNDAY April 21, 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.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE

Pastorale by Guiseppe Sammartini *Pastorale* by Peter Frost

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

BRINGING OF THE LIGH	IT / TIME OF GRATITUDE		
*GATHERING SONG	All Things Bright and Beautiful	See page 4	
*CALL TO WORSHIP	written by Joan Stott	Sarah Conly	
One: "O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!			
Your glory is higher than the heavens."			
We gather to praise you!			
All: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth".			
One: "O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!			
Your glory is higher than the heavens."			
We gather to celebrate you!			
All: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth			

And God saw that is was good..." We gather to celebrate our God.

One: "O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens." We gather to worship you!

All: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...

One: And God saw that is was very good..."

All: We gather to worship the Lord God who made it all!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

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

How Great Thou Art

CONTEMPORARY READING Blessing Our World Now, John O'Donohue

Drea Pecor

*SUNG RESPONSE God of Grace, God of Glory, vss. 1, 3, & 5 See page 5

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING	Genesis 1:20-31 (Robert Alter translation	on)
SERMON	Abundance, Blessing, Responsibility	Pastor Brent
*HYMN	Touch the Earth Lightly	See page 6

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY For the Beauty of the Earth by John Rutter Hui-Mei Lin, piano

*DOXOLOGY

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 Alleluia by Jerry Sinclair

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

*SENDING COMMISSION posted by Rev. Gord

Michael Deegan

- One: We have sung, we have prayed, we have worshiped together.
- All: Now we go back out into the world.
- One: We came together to build relationships,
- All: relationships with each other, and our relationship with Jesus.
- One: We go out as people who are strengthened by our connections
- All: Ready to love and to serve. Ready to carry God's love to the world.
- One: As we journey through the ups and the downs of the coming week,
- All: let us remember that God, who has invited us into relationship, is always with us.
- One: As we experience the beauty and joy of this place we call home
- All: let us remember to honor our God in the ways we care for greation.
- One: Go with God, as the people of God.
- All: So be it! Amen

*HYMN

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder vss. 1 & 4 See page 7

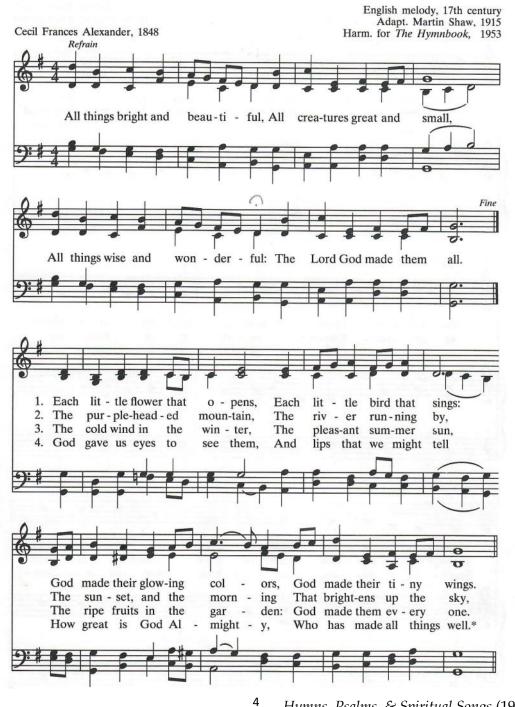
*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent

POSTLUDE Overture to the Opera "Alcina" by G.F. Handel Hui-Mei Lin, organ

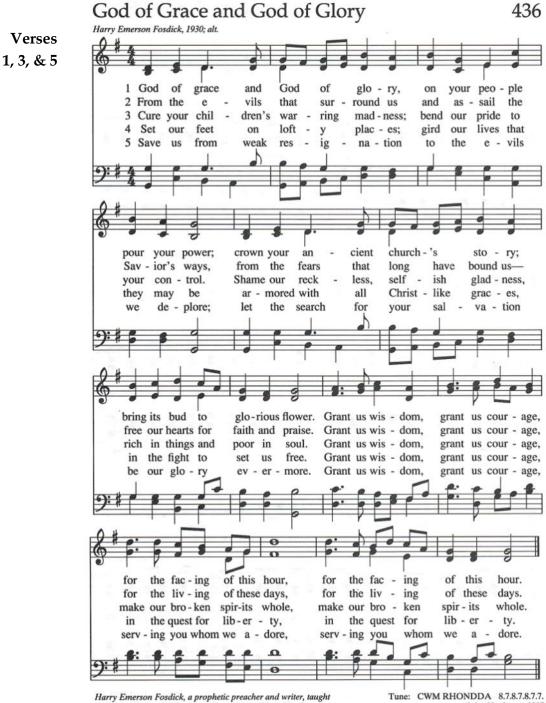
All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6 with refrain



Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs (1990)

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Harry Emerson Posaick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

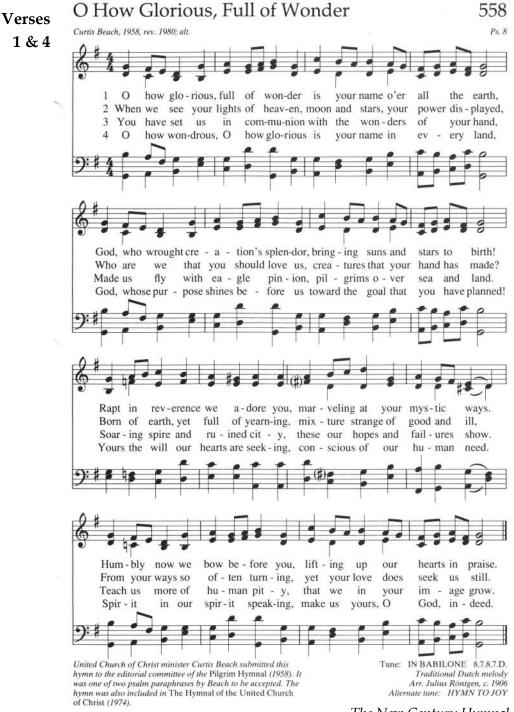
une: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7. John Hughes, c. 1907



Shirley Erena Murray's notes on this hymn state that the title line is borrowed from an Australian Aboriginal saying. The "clouds of disaster" mentioned in stanza 2 refer to nuclear testing by France, which New Zealand has protested at the United Nations many times.

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

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The New Century Hymnal (1995)

News and Announcements

Stockbridge Festival Chorus

Spring Concert, Saturday, April 27, 3:00 pm at First Congregational Church of Stockbridge. The featured work is *Melodious Accord: A Concert of Praise* by Alice Parker for chorus and solo quartet, accompanied by Berkshire Brass, harp, and piano. \$20 at the door, \$10 for community chorus members, and free for 18 and under. **Cathedral of the Beloved** We need volunteers to help cook together in the church kitchen on Saturday, April 27, and/or set up and serve the meal on April 28. Sign-up sheet in the JE Room.

All Church Birthday Party Celebrate our birthdays after church on May 5! Sign up in the JE room or call the office. Our theme is The Four Seasons — sit with your friends born in your season! Eat Cake! Seasonal attire encouraged.

Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

Alcina (see today's Postlude) is an opera seria composed by Handel in 1735. The work contains several musical pieces written for dance and specifically written for a dancer named Marie Salle.

Alcina was composed for the first season at the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, in London. It premiered on April 16, 1735. Like Handel's other works in this genre, this opera fell into obscurity. There was a revival in 1738, but it was not performed again until 1928.

Welcome! We are Open and Affirming, 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.

As followers of Christ and committed to Isaiah's charge to "maintain justice and do what is right," we acknowledge with gratitude and humility that we are learning, speaking, gathering, and worshiping 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.

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