



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

June 30, 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

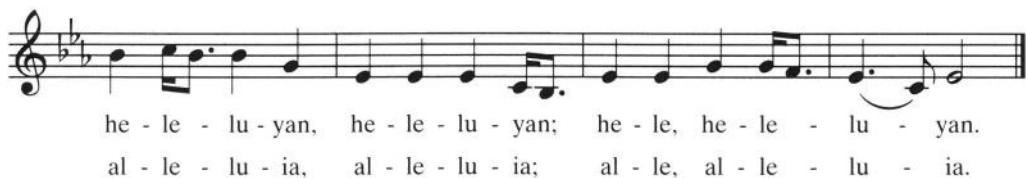
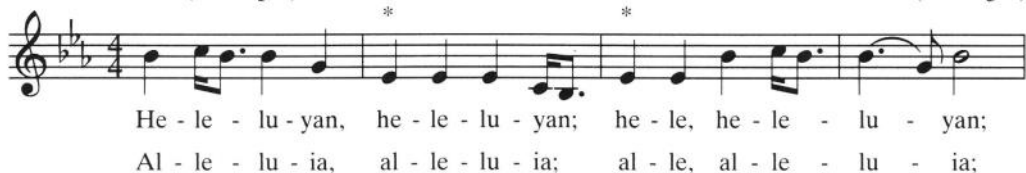
PRELUDE *Lead Us from Death to Life* (2 John: 1:3; Isa 2: 2-4),
by Kumar and Haugen

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

***GATHERING SONG** *Heleluyan (Alleluia)*

Native American (Muscogee) Transcribed by Charles Webb, 1989
Native American (Muscogee)



** May be sung as a canon.*

Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs (1990)

Music: Transcription © 1989 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.

*CALL TO WORSHIP From the Mennonite Tradition of Canada Gary Cilley

One: In a world filled with violence and war,

All: we gather together to celebrate the promise of peace.

One: In a world filled with tyranny and oppression,

All: we gather together to celebrate the promise of justice for all.

One: In a world filled with hunger and greed,

All: we gather together to celebrate the promise of plenty for all.

One: Our hope is in the name of the Almighty God,

All: the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of heaven and earth.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

The Prayer of St. Francis

**Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.**

**O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console; To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love; For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.**

CONTEMPORARY READINGS by Reinhold Niebuhr David Anderegg

“Democracies are indeed slow to make war, but once embarked upon a martial venture are equally slow to make peace and reluctant to make a tolerable, rather than a vindictive, peace.”

“There are historic situations in which refusal to defend the inheritance of a civilization, however imperfect, against tyranny and aggression may result in consequences even worse than war.”

*HYMN

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

See page 6

This hymn was chosen by Ed Ivas; see his note on page 8.

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27

Susan Moor

After the death of Saul, when David had returned from defeating the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. David intoned this lamentation over Saul and his son Jonathan. (He ordered that The Song of the Bow be taught to the people of Judah; it is written in the Book of Jashar.) He said: Your glory, O Israel, lies slain upon your high places!

How the mighty have fallen! Tell it not in Gath,
proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon;
or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice,
the daughters of the uncircumcised will exult.

You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you,
nor bounteous fields! For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,
the shield of Saul, anointed with oil no more.

From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty,
the bow of Jonathan did not turn back, nor the sword of Saul return empty.

Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely!

In life and in death they were not divided;
they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
who clothed you with crimson, in luxury,
who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!

Jonathan lies slain upon your high places.

I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me;
your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women.

How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

SERMON	<i>The Cost and Lament of War</i>	Pastor Brent
*HYMN	<i>God the Omnipotent!</i>	See page 7
MOMENT FOR MINISTRY	Delegates	John Canning

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child* (Spiritual)
setting by Peter Frost. Remembering the children left behind in war.

*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

BRINGING OUR PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER IN TIME OF WAR

Elizabeth Young

inspired by Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:204, written by Wendy Lyons

One: Together we pray as Jesus taught us,

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,

One: slow to anger, and of great mercy, lover of all peoples of the earth,

All: Hallowed be thy Name.

One: Remind us that "all the nations are as nothing before thee," their governments but a shadow of passing age;

All: Thy kingdom come on earth.

One: Grant to thy children throughout the world, and especially to the leaders of the nations, the gift of prayerful thought and thoughtful prayer; that following the example of our Lord, we may discern what is right, and do it;

All: Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

One: Help us to protect and to provide for all who are hungry and homeless, especially those who are deprived of food and shelter, family and friends, by the tragedy of war;

All: Give us this day our daily bread.

One: Forgive us for neglecting to "seek peace and pursue it," and finding ourselves in each new crisis, more ready to make war than to make peace. "We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves";

All: Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

One: Let us not seek revenge, but reconciliation; Let us not delight in victory, but in justice; Let us not give ourselves up to pride, but to prayer;

All: Lead us not into temptation.

One: Be present to all thy children ravaged by war: Be present to those who are killing and to those who are being killed; Be present to the loved ones of those who are killing and to the loved ones of those who are being killed;

All: Deliver us from evil.

One: Subdue our selfish desires to possess and to dominate, and forbid us arrogance in victory;

All: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE *7-fold Amen* by John Stainer

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

*HYMN *Let There be Peace on Earth*

**Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, children all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, may this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment
in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Brent

*SUNG RESPONSE *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*, vs. 2

**God be with you till we meet again;
Unseen wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.**

POSTLUDE

We Shall Overcome, American Trad.
The congregation is invited to join in the singing.

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

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MELITA 8.8.8.8.8.8

William Whiting, 1860; alt.

John Bacchus Dykes, 1861

1. E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm has bound the
 2. O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word The wind and waves sub -
 3. O Ho - ly Spir - it, who did brood Up - on the cha - os
 4. O Trin - i - ty of love and power, All trav - elers guard in

rest - less wave, Who bade the might - y o - cean deep Its
 mis - sive heard, Who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, And
 wild and rude, And bade its an - gry tu - mult cease, And
 dan - ger's hour; From rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, Pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
 calm a - mid its rage did sleep: O hear us when we
 gave, for fierce con - fu - sion, peace: O hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; Thus ev - er - more shall

cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to Thee For those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

God the Omnipotent!

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St. 1-2, Henry F. Chorley, 1842; alt.

St. 3-4, John Ellerton, 1870; alt.

1 God the Om - ni - po - tent! bold - ly or - dain - ing
 2 God the All - mer - ci - ful! earth has for - sak - en
 3 God the All - righ - teous One! earth has de - fied you,
 4 God the All - prov - i - dent! by your great chas - tening

thun - der and light - ning your strength to dis - play,
 all you make ho - ly, and slight - ed your way;
 yet to e - ter - ni - ty stands what you say;
 earth shall see free - dom and truth hold - ing sway;

Bring forth com - pas - sion where vi - o - lence is reign - ing;
 Bid not your wrath in its ter - rors a - wak - en:
 False - hood and wrong shall not tar - ry be - side you:
 Through the thick cha - os your reign is still has - tening:

give to us peace in our time, we pray.
 give to us peace in our time, we pray.
 give to us peace in our time, we pray.
 you will give peace in your time, we pray.

Two English hymns, one by Henry F. Chorley, a friend of Charles Dickens, and another by Church of England priest John Ellerton, are combined in this text. The tune was originally written for the Russian national anthem.

Tune: RUSSIAN HYMN 11.10.11.9.
 Alexis F. Lvov, 1833

The New Century Hymnal (1995)

Hymn Notes ~ Ed Ivas

"Eternal Father Strong to Save" is one hymn that comes to mind, as it honors our military! I served with the US Army (1st Infantry Division Aviation in Vietnam 1968 thru 1969) and it forever changed my life and the way I view the world.

Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

No one knows the true origins of "We Shall Overcome." No one knows who wrote it. It is believed that its roots come from African American gospel music. It was popularized by Pete Seeger and friends during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Please feel free to join me in singing it today.

Summer Fair

The Service League notes that their Summer Fair is coming up soon - Saturday, August 10. While you're waiting impatiently, you can dust off your favorite cookie recipes, pot up some of those divided perennials, can a

few extra jars of jams or pickles, and give one last once-over to the basement for potential donations to Grandma's Attic! And please say "Yes!" if you possibly can when Helen McCormick or Nancy Wilcox calls to ask for help or baked goods.

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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