



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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

*July 7, 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 *I Am Bound for the Promised Land*, by Buckner Gamby Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Nancy S. Taylor

**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

\*GATHERING SONG

*Heleluyan (Alleluia)*

Native American (Muscogee)

Transcribed by Charles Webb, 1989  
Native American (Muscogee)



He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan;  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia; al - le, al - le - lu - ia;



he - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia; al - le, al - le - lu - ia.

\* *May be sung as a canon.*

Music: Transcription © 1989 by The United Methodist Publishing House

*Hymns, Psalms, & Spiritual Songs (1990)*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP From the Iona Community

Susan Moor

One: Gather us in, O God.

Gather us in: the lost and the lonely, the broken and breaking,  
the tired and aching, who long for the nourishment held in your hands.

**Many: Gather us in!**

One: The done and the doubting, the wishing and wondering, the puzzled  
and pondering, who long for the company held in your hands.

**Many: Gather us in!**

One: The proud and pretentious, the sure and superior,  
the never inferior, who long for the leveling held in your hands.

**Many: Gather us in!**

One: The bright and the bustling, the stirrers, the shakers,  
the kind laughter-makers, who long for the greater joys held in your hands.

**Many: Gather us in!**

One: From corner or limelight, from mansion or campsite,  
from fears and obsession, from tears and depression,  
from untold excesses, from treasured successes,  
to meet, to greet, to be given a seat,

**Many: Gather us in!**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

*20 Questions About the Bible*

Elizabeth Young

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.**

CONTEMPORARY READING by John Bunyan

Jo Ann Levitt

"I have sometimes seen more in a line of the Bible than I could well tell how to  
stand under, and yet at another time the whole Bible hath been to me as dry as  
a stick."

\*HYMN

*I Come to the Garden Alone*

See page 6

This hymn was chosen by Jane McCormick; see her note on page 8.

# THE GIFT OF THE WORD

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Rich Geiler

*Our readings this morning come from both the Hebrew Scriptures and from the New Testament. The verses tell of occasions in which God instructed people to eat, that is, to ingest the sacred scrolls.*

From the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, the 15th chapter, verse 16. Jeremiah proclaims: "Your words, O God, were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts."

From the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, verses from chapters 2 and 3. Ezekial reports: "I looked, and behold, a hand was extended to me; and lo, a scroll was in it. When it was spread it out before me, it was written on the front and back, and written on it were lamentations, mourning and woe." (2.9 – 10) "Then a voice said to me, 'Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.' So I opened my mouth, and I was fed the scroll. The voice said to me, 'Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your body with this scroll which I am giving you.' Then I ate it, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth." (3.1 – 3)

SERMON

*Genre*

Rev. Taylor

\*HYMN

*Almighty God, Your Word is Cast*

See page 6

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Taylor

OFFERTORY

*The Lord is my Shepherd* by Edwin Childs

Rich Geiler, *tenor*; Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

\*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

David Anderegg

PRAYER RESPONSE

*Open My Eyes*, arr. by Hal Hopson

Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

## GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

David Anderegg

\*HYMN

*I Love to Tell the Story*

See pp. 6-7

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Taylor

\*SUNG RESPONSE

*God Be With You Till We Meet Again*, vs. 3

**God be with you till we meet again;**

**When life's perils thick confound you;**

**Put unfailing arms around you:**

**God be with you till we meet again.**

POSTLUDE

*Minuet* from Sonata in G major by Franz Schubert

Hui-Mei Lin, *piano*

### **Music Notes** ~ Hui-Mei Lin

Sonata in G Major D. 894 is the last piano sonata Schubert wrote in 1826, one year before his death. It's a sonata with grace, beauty and tenderness.

### **Our Guest Preacher**

The Rev. Dr. Nancy S. Taylor is Senior Minister Emeritus at Old South Church in Boston.

# In the Garden

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, While the dew is  
 2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so sweet the  
 3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him Tho' the night a -

still on the ros - es; And the voice I hear, fal - ling on my ear,  
 birds hush their sing - ing; And the me - lo - dy that He gave to me  
 round me be fal - ling; But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,

The Son of God dis - clo - ses.  
 With - in my heart is ring - ing. And He walks with me, and He  
 His voice to me is cal - ling.

talks with me, And He tells me I am His own, And the joy we

share as we tar - ry there, None o - ther has e - ver known.

Text: C. Austin Miles, 1868-1946  
 Tune: C. Austin Miles, 1868-1946



Irregular  
 GARDEN  
[www.hymnary.org/text/i\\_come\\_to\\_the\\_garden\\_alone](http://www.hymnary.org/text/i_come_to_the_garden_alone)

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# Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

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John Cawood, 1815; alt.

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN

Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23

1 Al - might-y God, your Word is cast like seed in - to the ground;  
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,  
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,  
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, your quick-ening grace be - stow,

Now let the dew of heaven de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.  
But give it root in ev - ery heart to bring forth fruits of love.  
But let it yield a hun - dred-fold the fruits of peace and joy.  
That all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing power may know.

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Tune: HANKEY

# I Love to Tell the Story

Katherine Hankey, 1866; alt.

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat  
4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

continued

Of Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love.  
 than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams.  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.  
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
 And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
 be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.  
 will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry

I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.

## Hymn Notes ~ Jane McCormick

The first time I heard this hymn it was amazing. I looked up "I Come to the Garden Alone" on the computer and read about the author, C. Austin Miles. His experience with Jesus as he walked through the actual garden is powerful: "As he meditated on the story of Jesus and Mary Magdalene in the Garden on the morning of the resurrection, song writer C. Austin Miles felt as if he was standing there witnessing the friendship between Mary and the Lord. The words and music he wrote following that experience became one of the most loved Gospel hymns of all time."

### 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 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.*

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