



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

July 14, 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

The Gift of Love, (trad.) arr. by John Carter

FRAMING WORDS / WELCOME

Pastor Brent Damrow

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

*GATHERING SONG

He Has Made Me Glad

See booklet page 1

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gary Cilley

One: Come with your questions, come with your awe!

All: For the God who broods over the chaos meets us in this place.

One: Come with your energy, come with your weariness!

**All: For the God who breathes new life into the dust
meets us in this place.**

One: Come with your sadness, come with your joy!

All: For the God who dared to become human meets us in this place.

~ written by Katherine Hawker, 2006. Posted on Liturgies Outside.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sanctuaries

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.

*HYMN

Be Now My Vision

See booklet page 2

Chosen by Liza Catino, see note on page 4.

THE GIFT OF THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 24

Liza Catino

Of David. A Psalm.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And
who shall stand in his holy place?
Those who have clean hands and pure
hearts, who do not lift up their souls to
what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.
They will receive blessing from the Lord,
and vindication from the God of their
salvation.

Such is the company of those who seek
him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Selah

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted
up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory
may come in. Who is the King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord,
mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory? The Lord of
hosts, he is the King of glory. *Selah*

SERMON

Never Alone

Pastor Brent

*HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

See booklet page 3

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 85

Rich Geiler

See page 3

*HYMN

Lord, You Have Lavished on Your Land

See booklet page 4

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

All Things Bright and Beautiful, Royal Oak,
adapted by Martin Shaw

Amy Shake, *soprano*

*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

PRAYER RESPONSE *Seven-fold Amen* by John Stainer Amy Shake, *soprano*

GOING FORTH INTO THE WORLD

INVITATIONS

*HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* See booklet page 5

*BENEDICTION Pastor Brent

*SUNG RESPONSE *Go With Us Lord* See booklet page 6

POSTLUDE *Meditation on "How Great Thou Art" (Swedish)*
arr. by John Carter



Psalm 85
Lord, you were favourable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin. *Selah*
You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.
Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation towards us.
Will you be angry with us for ever?
Will you prolong your anger to all
generations?
Will you not revive us again,
so that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his
faithful, to those who turn to him in their
hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those
who fear him, that his glory may dwell in
our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness
will meet; righteousness and peace will
kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the
ground, and righteousness will look down
from the sky. The Lord will give what is
good, and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him, and will
make a path for his steps.

Music Notes ~ Peter Frost

John Carter, (Prelude and Postlude) renowned as a composer and pianist, was born in 1932 in Missouri, but raised in Florida. He quickly demonstrated extraordinary piano skills at a very young age. From 1949 to 1954 he attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. With just one semester remaining he joined the Army Special Services where he was assigned to the entertainment branch of the US military. Over the many years I have conducted church choirs, we have performed many wonderful compositions and arrangements by John Carter. After a glorious career as a pianist, composer, and arranger, he died from respiratory complications in Hempstead, New York, in 1981. He was just 49 years old.

Hymn Notes ~ Liza Catino

"Be Thou My Vision" is considered the most famous Irish hymn. The text reflects early Christian life in Ireland c. 400-800 AD. The lyrics are in the form of an Iorica prayer - a prayer of protection. The lovely tune, Slane, is an Irish folk tune. Hymn tune names were commonly attributed to the place where folk song collectors discovered the music. Shláine is a very small Irish village with any historic sites from over 5,000 years ago. I have always been drawn to this beautiful melody and the poem has comforted me since I first learned it as a young child.

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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