



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



First Congregational Church of Stoughton

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

An Open and Affirming Congregation

August 16, 2020

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:55 am

Welcome to worship! While we can't be together physically, we are glad to join our two congregations together for worship online. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

PRELUDE (9:50am)

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let the people praise you, O God;

All: let all the peoples praise you!

One: Let the nations be glad and sing with joy,

All: for you guide the nations upon earth.

One: Let the people praise you, O God;

All: let all the peoples praise you!

OPENING PRAYER

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Ann-Marie Illsley

HYMN

'Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race'

No. 485

(scroll down to music)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Almighty God, we come to You knowing we have failed to welcome the stranger, to feed the hungry, to support the oppressed. We have kept up appearances of righteousness but failed in our actions to help others. We have said hurtful words, we have gossiped, and we have excluded our many siblings. Forgive us. Call us away from our selfish actions and turn us back to Your way, to seeing our neighbor's needs as Your needs, to loving our neighbor as You have loved us. We pray in the name of Christ, who became last of all and servant of all so that we might learn to love one another. We ask that you hear us now, as we come to you in silence, to share that which is ours alone to confess.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8

Lisa Sparling

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant-- these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Matthew 15: 21-28

Jennifer Dinkel-Jones

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."

Jesus answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

SERMON

Rev. Mary Perry

HYMN

'There's a Wideness In God's Mercy'

No. 73

(scroll down to music)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Sharing our joys and concerns

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father (Creator), 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

With deep gratitude for the healing and freedom that Jesus offers, let us present our offerings to God. Through our gifts, may that healing and freedom be shared in God's world in Christ's name.

OFFERTORY HYMN

'This Is My Song'

No. 722

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Mary Perry

Ann-Marie Illsley

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Sylvia Berry, Accompanist

Lay Readers:

Lisa Sparling

Jennifer Dinkel-Jones

Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

485

1. Di - verse in cul - ture, na - tion, race, we
 2. God, let us be a bridge of care con -
 3. When cha - sms wid - en, storms a - rise, O
 4. God, let us be a ta - ble spread with

come to - geth - er by your grace. God, let us be a
 nect - ing peo - ple ev - 'ry - where. Help us con - front all
 Ho - ly Spir - it, make us wise. Let our re - solve, like
 gifts of love and bro - ken bread, where all find wel - come,

meet - ing ground where hope and heal - ing love are found.
 fear and hate and lust for pow'r that sep - a - rate.
 steel, be strong to stand with those who suf - fer wrong.
 grace at - tends, and en - e - mies a - rise as friends.

WORDS: Ruth Duck, 1991
 MUSIC: Thomas Tallis, 1561

TALLIS' CANON
 LM

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2. There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and more grac-es for the good!
 3. For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
 4. If our love were but more sim-ple, we should rest up-on God's word;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib-er-ty.
 There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
 and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
 and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber, 1854
 MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjee, 1877; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

WELLESLEY
 87.87

This Is My Song

1. This is my song, O God of all the na-tions,
 2. My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o-cean,
 3. This is my prayer, O Rul-er of all na-tions:

a song of peace for lands a-far and mine.
 and sun-light beams on clo-ver-leaf and pine;
 let thy reign come; on earth thy will be done.

This is my home, the coun-try where my heart is;
 but oth-er lands have sun-light too, and clo-ver,
 In peace may all earth's peo-ple draw to-geth-er,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho-ly shrine;
 and skies are ev-ery-where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u-nit-ed learn to live as one.

WORDS: St. 1, 2, Lloyd Stone, 1934; st. 3, Georgia Harkness, c. 1939, alt.
 MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933

FINLANDIA
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 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
O hear my song, thou God of all the na - tions,
O hear my prayer, thou God of all the na - tions;

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.