



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



First Congregational Church of Stoughton

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

An Open and Affirming Congregation

August 23, 2020

BASEBALL SUNDAY 

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

PRE-GAME WARMUP 

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marcia Olson

FIRST INNING 

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In quietness and darkness, in peace and confusion, God calls us back home.

All: God is the hope of the world.

One: In God there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant.

All: All are one in God.

One: In God there is neither black nor white, neither north nor south.

All: God is the hope of the world.

One: In God there is neither male nor female, neither master nor servant.

All: All are one in God.

One: In God there is neither rich nor poor.

All: God is the hope of the world.

One: In God there is neither Red Sox nor Yankee.

All: We are all one in God. Let us worship God together!

SECOND INNING 

OPENING PRAYER

SONG: 'Take Me Out to God's Game'

Take me out to God's Game,
Let me be on God's Team
Find me some purpose, a path to tread,
I know my Bible, I'll always get fed.
And it's root, root, root for the sermons,
The preaching is always the best!
And serve, pray, always have faith,
When you're on God's team.

Take me to online worship
Make my internet strong.
With Murray, Mary, and Sylvia,
We'll hear the best music, we sing right along!

So it's root, root, root for God's home team,
Believers, all tried and true.
Not just one, two, three days a year,
But our whole lives through.

Take me out to God's game,
Where the people all sing,
Hallelujah and praise the Lord,
We know all the songs so we never get bored.
And it's root, root, root for the home church,
Where caring people abound.
When our worship is over our service begins,
Christians all around!

THIRD INNING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Compassionate God, we sometimes see our relationships with others as places for competition. We want to be the best, to be seen as winners, to be admired and praised by the world. Help us to see that your desires for our lives have a different focus, and enable us to strive for what matters to you – to seek peace, love justice, and bring hope and compassion to all your people. Now, we come to you in silence to share what is ours alone to confess.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

FOURTH INNING

THE WAVE

FIFTH INNING

SCRIPTURE

Scripture - Luke 9:57-62

Moriah Illsley-Park

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

The word of God for the people of God.

SERMON

Rev. Mary Perry

SIXTH INNING

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.

SEVENTH INNING

HYMN

'In Christ There Is No East or West'

Christopher Nickelson-Mann

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

No matter what team you root for, no matter what the game,
Our God calls us to love and serve all on this earthly plane

Join hands, disciples of the faith, what e'er your race may be;
All children of the living God are surely kin to me

:

In Christ we meet as Red Sox fans, and Yankee supporters, too.
All loving hearts live on in Him, no matter the team you choose.

EIGHTH INNING

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

Wherever we are – who ever we are, God calls us to be fans of generous giving.
May we give not of obligation, but with joy. Please give to your respective church as you are able.
Thank you for your generosity.

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

www.uccstoughton.org/online-giving/

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

NINTH INNING

BENEDICTION

POST-GAME WRAP-UP 
'Halle-Halle-Halleluja'

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Mary Perry
Ann-Marie Illsley
Christopher Nickelson-Mann
Marcia Olson
Moriah Illsley-Park