



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



First Congregational Church of Stoughton

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

An Open and Affirming Congregation

June 28, 2020

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Pride 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

'Romance'

by Anton Rubinstein

'Sonatina'

by M. Clementi Op. 36 No. 1

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barry Shelley

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: From ancient times to the present day, people have gathered wherever they are to worship God.

ALL: We come together to immerse ourselves in God's love and connection.

One: We invite God's presence into this gathering.

ALL: We open our spirits to the depth and breadth of Divine love and care.

One: Although we are not all in one place, we bring our prayers to God as one community, one assembled body, gathered in Christ's name.

ALL: Whether we are Transgender, Nonbinary, Bisexual, Lesbian, Intersex, Gay, Queer, Straight, or Ally, we are all Beloved people of God. We come to worship and to pledge our commitment to walk the path of Jesus.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

'Help Us Accept Each Other'

No. 487

(scroll down to music)

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Church Welcome Statements

Doug Anderson & John Baglole

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Let us come before God with humility and confess that which keeps us apart from God and one another. Let us pray. Lord of all life and each life, Forgive us when we forget that life is a gift and that you are with us in both our struggles and our achievements.

Forgive us when we ignore the value of each person you have created and for the pain we have caused to others.

Bless with your healing love those who have been hurt by our actions and by our inaction.

Heal us, too, of the hurts and harm we carry

and forgive us the grudges that weigh us down.

Restore our faith in your goodness

and free us to live with you and with each other in reconciling grace

through the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us spend the next few moments in silence sharing with you what is ours alone to confess.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

SCRIPTURES

Joshua 2:1-7

Kevin Monahan

Then Joshua ben-Nun secretly sent out two spies from Shittim, ordering them, "Go, scout the territory—especially Jericho." The two spies set off and went off to Jericho. There they went to the house of an innkeeper named Rahab, where they spent the night. When the word reached the ruler of Jericho that two Israelites had arrived that evening to scout the territory, the ruler sent this message to Rahab: "Bring me the two who are lodging in your house, for they are here to spy on my land."

But Rahab took the two spies and hid them, then told the ruler, "Yes, they did come here, but I did not know where they were from. And after dark, knowing that the gate would be closed soon, they left. I don't know where they went. But you might catch up to them if you hurry." As a matter of fact, Rahab had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under stocks of flax stored there. The ruler's posse set off in pursuit, down the road that crosses the Jordan at a ford. But as soon as the posse had left, they shut the gate.

Matthew 10:40-11:1

Kate Howard

Jesus said, "Those who welcome you also welcome me, and those who welcome me welcome the One who sent me. Those who welcome the prophets just because they are prophets will receive the reward reserved for the prophets themselves; those who welcome holy people just because they are holy will receive the reward of the holy ones. The truth is, whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of these lowly ones just for being a disciple will not lack a reward." When Jesus had finished instructing the Twelve, he left the area to teach and preach in the outlying towns of the region.

May God bless our understanding of these holy words.

HYMN

'The Gift of Love'

No. 526

(scroll down to music)

SERMON

Rev. Adam Isbitsky

MUSIC

40 by U2

performed by Andrew Howard

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 trespasses (sins), as we forgive those who trespass (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

In the season of Pentecost the Spirit energizes the Church to touch the world with God's love and mercy, God's truth and justice. Whatever you offer back to God becomes a gift which can change the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. Please give to your respective church as you are able, either by donating online or mailing a check. May God bless you for your generosity.

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

www.uccstoughton.org/online-giving/

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN

(scroll down to music)

'Siyahamba'

No.442

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

'The Rose'

by Amanda McBroom

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Adam Isbitsky

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Sylvia Berry, Accompanist

Jennie Ostrow, Accompanist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Andrew Howard, Music

Lay Readers:

Kate Howard

Kevin Monahan

Help Us Accept Each Other 487

Unison

1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
 2. Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3. Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4. Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,

teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for righ - teous - ness and bread,

Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance, un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on;

we are our - selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1974
 MUSIC: John Ness Beck, 1977

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ACCEPTANCE
 76.76D

d=64-72

The Gift of Love

526

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
 2. Though I may give all I pos - sess,
 3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol,

and have the gift to all in - spire,
 and striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
 our spir - its long to be made whole.

and have not love, my words are vain,
 but not be given by love with - in,
 Let in - ward love guide ev - ery deed;

as sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
 the prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
 by this we wor - ship, and are freed.

WORDS: Hal H. Hopson, 1972
 MUSIC: Traditional English melody; adapt. Hal H. Hopson, 1972

GIFT OF LOVE
 LM

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Alt. tune: O WALY WALY

442

We Are Walking (Siyahamba/Caminando)

We are walk ing* in the light of God, we are
 Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya -
 Ca - mi - nan - do en la luz de Dios, ca - mi -

walk - ing in the light of God. We are
 hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos. Si - ya -
 nan - do en la luz de Dios. Ca - mi -

of God we are
 kwen - khos' si - ya
 de Dios ca - mi

walk - ing in the light of the light of God. We are
 hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya
 nan - do en la luz de la luz de Dios. Ca - mi -

of God
 kwen - khos'
 de Dios

* marching/singing/dancing/praying

WORDS and MUSIC: South Africa (20th century)

SIYAHAMBA
Irr.

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GOING FORTH

walk-ing
ham - ba
nan - do

Oo

We are
Si - ya
Ca - mi

walk - ing, walk - ing, we are walk - ing, walk - ing, we are
ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -
nan - do va - mos, ca - mi - nan - do va - mos, ca - mi -

walk - ing in the light of God.
hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos.
nan - do en la luz de Dios.