



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

9:55 am

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

PRELUDE (9:50 am)

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barry Shelley

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Friends in Christ, what hopes do you bring to worship?

People: We bring hope for health and wholeness.

Leader: What afflictions do you bring to worship? Physical pain?

People: From illness and injury.

Leader: Emotional pain?

People: From sad and scary life situations.

Leader: Mental pain?

People: From dis-ease of many kinds.

Leader: With all of these afflictions, it's a miracle that any of us have made it to worship this morning!

People: But where else would we be? We yearn to know God's powerful love and to know that wholeness is possible.

Leader: In today's gospel, a person with an "afflicting spirit" interrupts Jesus

People: And Jesus sets the person free.

Leader: And where does the miracle of this story, and our own stories, begin?

People: When we bring all of who we are - hopeful, afflicted, bold - into relationships with the Divine.

Leader: So come, let us enter our worship this day with our whole selves.

People: Hopeful, afflicted, and bold - come, let us worship!

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

'He Leadeth Me'

No. 545

(scroll down to music)

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

O Divine Healer, we confess that sometimes we yearn for you to wave a magic wand on our wounded lives to remove our pain, illness, and suffering. We hear the gospel story of the one seeking healing from Jesus and assume you will perform a similar miracle for all of us - if we just pray hard enough. And we do pray! Open our eyes to recognize the teachings and tools you have given us with which to seek healing in the midst of our afflictions and dis-eases. You whisper to us that wholeness requires self-care and rest; You nudge us toward caregivers who can support and advise us; You breathe into us energy to move and stretch and reach toward health; You place in us an urgency to seek justice so that all may enjoy adequate health care. O God, renew our spirits in the midst of our dis-eases and afflicting spirits. Transform us, O Whole-y One, for the health of your creation. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN

(scroll down to music)

‘Spirit of the Living God’

No. 259

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

HYMN

(scroll down to music)

‘Silence, Frenzied, Unclean Spirit’

No. 186

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

When we give of ourselves to meet the needs of others, we are co-creators in the health of God's creation. As we have been given much, let us give much in return.

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ALL: Transforming God, we dedicate our gifts to you for the health of your creation. May those who receive these gifts be blessed by your love and inspired to give to others so that your creation will continue to be transformed by your love.

HYMN

(scroll down to music)

'Amazing Grace'

No. 546

BENEDICTION

Impromptu in A-flat major, Op. 142, No. 2

Franz Peter Schubert (1797 - 1828)

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor
Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor
Murray Kidd, Music Director
Sylvia Berry, Accompanist
Alisa Cassola, Soloist
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹Rev. Dr. Brown Daniel, Ginny. "Epiphany 4 - Year B, January 31, 2021." *United Church of Christ*, 20 Dec. 2020, www.ucc.org/worship-way/epiphany-4-year-b-january-31-2021/.

²Unknown. *Opening Prayer: Epiphany 4B*, 16 Jan. 2012, re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/opening-prayer-epiphany-4b.html.

³Townley, Nancy C. *Pastoral Prayer: January 29, 2012*, 16 Jan. 2012, re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/pastoral-prayer-january-29-2012.html.

545 He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!

1. He lead - eth me: O bless - ed thought! O
 2. Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor
 3. And when my task on earth is done, when,

words with heaven - ly com - fort fraught! What - e'er I do, wher -
 ev - er mur - mur nor re - pine; by wa - ters still, o'er
 by thy grace, the vic - tory's won, e'en death's cold wave I

e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
 trou - bled sea, still 'tis thy hand that lead - eth me.
 will not flee, since God thro' Jor - dan lead - eth me.

Refrain

He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me, by his own hand he lead - eth me:

his faith - ful fol - lower I would be, for by his hand he lead - eth me.

WORDS: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1862
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1864

HE LEADETH ME
 LM w. refrain

Spirit of the Living God

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

LIVING GOD
75.75.875

186 Silence, Frenzied, Unclean Spirit!

Unison

1. "Si - lence, fren - zied, un - clean spir - it!" cried God's heal - ing
 2. Lord, the de - mons still are thriv - ing in the gray cells
 3. Si - lence, Lord, the un - clean spir - it in our mind and

Ho - ly One. "Cease your rant - ing! Flesh can't bear it;
 of the mind: ty - rant voic - es, shrill and driv - ing,
 in our heart; speak your word that when we hear it,

flee as night be - fore the sun." At Christ's words the de - mon
 twist-ed thoughts that grip and bind, doubts that stir the heart to
 all our de - mons shall de - part. Clear our thought and calm our

trem - bled, from its vic - tim mad - ly rushed, while the crowd that
 pan - ic, fears dis - tort - ing rea - son's sight, guilt that makes our
 feel - ing; still the frac - tured, war - ring soul. By the pow - er

WORDS: Thomas H. Troeger, 1984
 MUSIC: Carol Doran, 1984

AUTHORITY
 87.87D

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♩=100-108

alt. tune: EBENEZER

was as - sem - bled stood in won - der, stunned and hushed.
 lov - ing fran - tic, dreams that cloud the soul with fright.
 of your heal - ing make us faith - ful, true, and whole.

Amazing Grace!

546

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

WORDS: John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous
 MUSIC: *Virginia Harmony*, 1831; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

NEW BRITAIN
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