



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



February 14, 2021

9:55 am

SUNDAY

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: Gathering in this sacred time of worship we anticipate new wonders each week.

People: Wherever two or three are gathered to worship, a Holy Spirit is present.

Leader: Open our eyes to witness the fantastic love and wondrous joy waiting to be revealed, even this day, even now in our worship.

People: We will want to linger and camp in this worshipful space but when we leave our worship today may our hearts be open to all the wonders of God's beautiful world.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

'Be Thou My Vision'

No.595

(scroll down to music)

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Forgive us, God, when we linger too long by the waters, and on the mountain tops, enthralled with the glory that flows from you. When we fail to listen to your voice, leading and guiding us, shake us from our contentment and send us forward endowed with your power. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

SCRIPTURE

2 Kings 2:1-12 *(New Century Version)*

It was almost time for the LORD to take Elijah by a whirlwind up into heaven. While Elijah and Elisha were leaving Gilgal, Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here. The LORD has told me to go to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you live, I won't leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The groups of prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know the LORD will take your master away from you today?"

Elisha said, "Yes, I know, but don't talk about it."

Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha, because the LORD has sent me to Jericho."

But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you live, I won't leave you."

So they went to Jericho. The groups of prophets at Jericho came to Elisha and said, "Do you know that the LORD will take your master away from you today?"

Elisha answered, "Yes, I know, but don't talk about it."

Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here. The LORD has sent me to the Jordan River."

Elisha answered, "As the LORD lives, and as you live, I won't leave you."

So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the groups of prophets came and stood far from where Elijah and Elisha were by the Jordan. Elijah took off his coat, rolled it up, and hit the water. The water divided to the right and to the left, and Elijah and Elisha crossed over on dry ground.

After they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "What can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

Elisha said, "Leave me a double share of your spirit."

Elijah said, "You have asked a hard thing. But if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours. If you don't, it won't happen."

As they were walking and talking, a chariot and horses of fire appeared and separated Elijah from Elisha. Then Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw it and shouted, "My father! My father! The chariots of Israel and their horsemen!" And Elisha did not see him anymore. Then Elisha grabbed his own clothes and tore them to show how sad he was.

Mark 9:2-9 *(Common English Bible)*

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain where they were alone. He was transformed in front of them, and his clothes were amazingly bright, brighter than if they had been bleached white. Elijah and Moses appeared and were talking with Jesus. Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus, "Rabbi, it's good that we're here. Let's make three shrines—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He said this because he didn't know how to respond, for the three of them were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice spoke from the cloud, "This is my Son, whom I dearly love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Human One had risen from the dead.

HYMN

'Sing of God Made Manifest'

No. 176

*(scroll down to music)***PASTORAL PRAYER**

Leader: Almighty God, before the passion of your Son you revealed his glory upon the holy mountain. Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of His countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross. Indeed, O God, give us the vision to see beyond the turmoil of our world and to behold Him in all His glory...

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: O God, at the Holy Mountain we open our eyes and we see Jesus, the months of ministry transfigured to a beam of light, the light of the world, your light. May your light always shine upon us...

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: O God, we open our eyes and we see Moses and Elijah with Jesus, your word, restoring us, showing us the way, telling a story - your story, his story, our story. May your word always speak to us...

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: O God, we open our eyes and we see mist, the cloud of your presence, which assures us of all we do not know and that we do not need to fear. Teach us to trust...

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: O God, we open our eyes and we see Peter's constructions, his best laid plans, our best laid plans, our missing the point, our missing the way. Forgive us our foolishness and our sin...

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: O God, we open our eyes and we see Jesus, not casting us off but leading us down, leading us out - to ministry, to people. Help us to share his love, your love...

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: O God, hear our prayers not just for ourselves, but our prayers for one another at this time - our prayer that they who are lost might be found, that they who are lame might walk, that they who are sick may be healed, that they who are enslaved may be set free, and they that mourn may be comforted. We pray, O God, for all those in our own Beloved Community whose names are on our prayer list and we ask that you would provide for them in whatever way they may need.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: O God, at your Holy Mountain we open our ears and we hear your voice saying, "This is my beloved Son, listen to him!" We give you thanks and we pray in his name that we might always do your will and harken to his voice - both on the mountains and in the valleys of our lives. We lift those prayers to you now with our voices in unison, using the words that Christ has put on our hearts, saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please note: someone once said that when we pray the prayer of our Savior our voices will be in unison, even if our words might not be. We are committed to creating a worship space where people feel empowered to speak to God in whatever way is most meaningful for them. For that reason we have printed the Lord's prayer using "Father" for God, along with "Creator" in parenthesis, while also acknowledging that there are many names for God. We invite you to pray this prayer using the words and the names for God that are most meaningful to you.

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.

ANTHEM

Sylvia Berry & Alisa Cassola, soloists

'He's Got the Whole World in His Hands'

African American Spiritual
arranged by Margaret Bonds

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

Peter offered to build a tabernacle on the mountain with Jesus. But God does not dwell in houses made with human hands. Let us offer ourselves in service to those God loves. Let us offer our sacrifices to build community, bring peace, and be a double blessing to those in need throughout the world.

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN

(scroll down to music)

'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot'

No. 643

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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. Shockley, Madison. "Transfiguration Sunday - Year B, February 14, 2021." *United Church of Christ*, 20 Dec. 2020, www.ucc.org/worship-way/transfiguration-sunday-year-b-february-14-2021/.

²Loader, Willian. *Pastoral Prayer: Transfiguration*, 16 Feb. 2014, re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/02/pastoral-prayer-transfiguration.html.

Margaret Bonds (1913 - 1972) was an American composer, pianist, arranger, and teacher. One of the first Black composers and performers to gain recognition in the United States, she is best remembered today for her popular arrangements of African-American spirituals and frequent collaborations with Langston Hughes.



Happy Valentine's Day

Be Thou My Vision

595

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

thou my best thought by day or by night,
 thou my re - deem - er, my love thou hast won,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

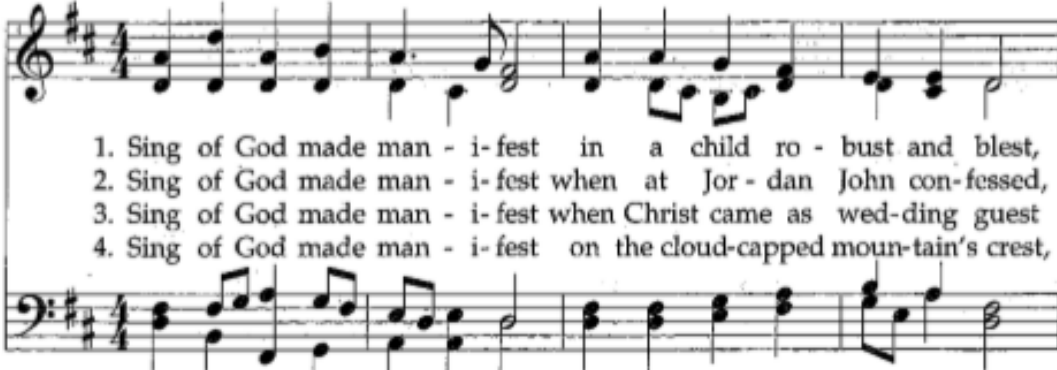
wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one.
 Great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

WORDS: Irish song (8th century); tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.

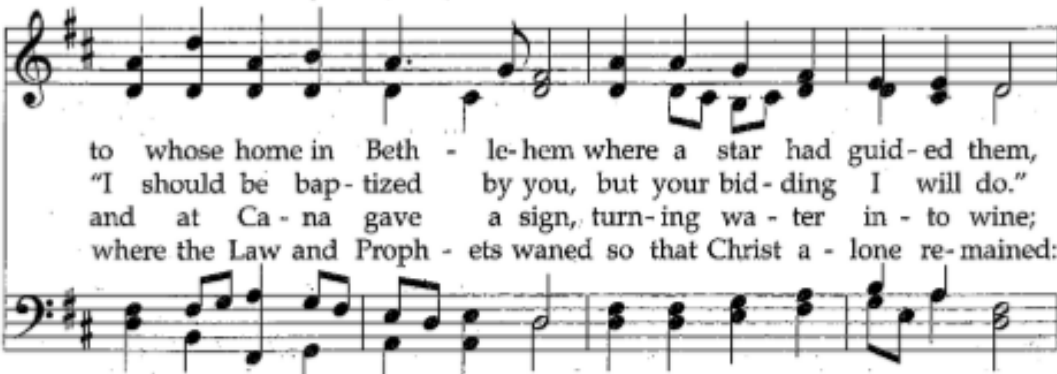
MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1963

SLANE
10 10.9 10

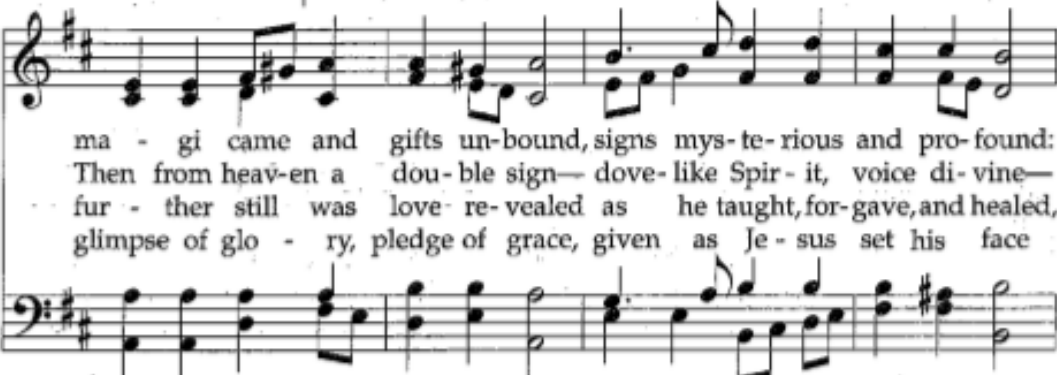
Harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House



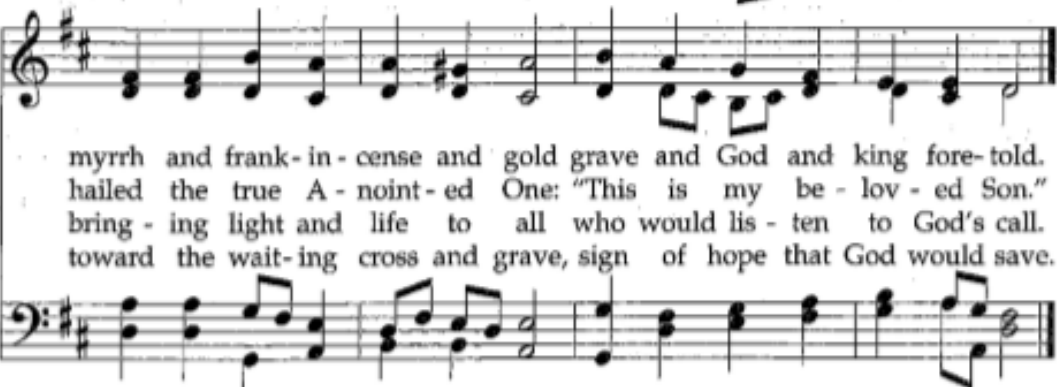
1. Sing of God made man - i - fest in a child ro - bust and blest,
 2. Sing of God made man - i - fest when at Jor - dan John con - fessed,
 3. Sing of God made man - i - fest when Christ came as wed - ding guest
 4. Sing of God made man - i - fest on the cloud - capped moun - tain's crest,



to whose home in Beth - le - hem where a star had guid - ed them,
 "I should be bap - tized by you, but your bid - ding I will do."
 and at Ca - na gave a sign, turn - ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 where the Law and Proph - ets waned so that Christ a - lone re - mained:



ma - gi came and gifts un - bound, signs mys - te - rious and pro - found:
 Then from heav - en a dou - ble sign— dove - like Spir - it, voice di - vine—
 fur - ther still was love - re - vealed as he taught, for - gave, and healed,
 glimpse of glo - ry, pledge of grace, given as Je - sus set his face



myrrh and frank - in - cense and gold grave and God and king fore - told.
 hailed the true A - noint - ed One: "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
 bring - ing light and life to all who would lis - ten to God's call.
 toward the wait - ing cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

MUSIC: Jacob Hintze, 1678; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (18th century)

SALZBURG

77.77D

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Refrain

Swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com - ing for to car - ry me home;

swing low, sweet char - i - ot, com - ing for to car - ry me home. *Fine*

1. I looked o - ver Jor - dan, and what did I see,
2. If you get there be - fore I do,
3. I'm some - times up, I'm some - times down,

com - ing for to car - ry me home? A band of an - gels
com - ing for to car - ry me home; tell all my friends I'm
com - ing for to car - ry me home; but still my soul feels

com - ing af - ter me, com - ing for to car - ry me home. *D.C.*
com - ing too, com - ing for to car - ry me home.
heav - en - ly bound, com - ing for to car - ry me home.

WORDS: African-American spiritual
MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. Bill Thomas, 1994

SWING LOW
10 8.10 8 w. refrain