



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



February 28, 2021

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)

'Gather Us In'

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barry Shelley

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are the church that lives into God's future today.

People: A church united across space and time.

Leader: A church of many races, languages, and ethnicities.

People: A church that lives by the work of God in Christ that was, is now, and is still to come.

Leader: The one who is seated on the throne says to us, "See, I am making all things new!"

People: A new heaven and a new earth, where the home of God is among God's people.

Leader: God's future is epic, and it's good news.

People: We remember God's future, for this is our story!

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

'Be Thou My Vision'

No. 595

(scroll down to music)

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

O God, You who are always doing a new thing, we confess that we sometimes close windows against the fresh air of new ideas, against the noise of other people's worries, against the winds of change. God of every place and time, we confess that we often draw the curtains against people who are different, against world news or community concerns. Forgive us our insulation in our locked homes, our shuttered churches, and the security systems on our hearts. Open up our lives, and let your Spirit blow through. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21:1-7 *(The Common English Bible)*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Look! God's dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look! I'm making all things new." He also said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring. Those who emerge victorious will inherit these things. I will be their God, and they will be my sons and daughters.

Matthew 6:5-13 *(New Revised Standard Version)*

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

"Pray then in this way:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one."

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

HYMN

(scroll down to music)

'We've a Story to Tell to the Nations'

No. 484

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER New Zealand Anglican Lord's Prayer

This version of the Lord's prayer comes from The New Zealand Book of Prayer of the Anglican church in New Zealand. Throughout the season of Lent we will engage with this version of the Lord's prayer, as a way to reflect more deeply upon the prayer that we all say each week. We will resume with the Lord's prayer, as we have traditionally prayed it, on Easter Sunday. Throughout this season, as we engage with this new way of saying the same prayer we are all familiar with, we invite you to focus on the words. Allow yourself to stumble and allow yourself to pray imperfectly, because in the end our prayers are an offering to God no matter what form they take.

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven.

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and rest, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

'Give Me Jesus'

sung by Alisa Cassola, soloist

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN

'Lift High the Cross'

No. 108

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

¹Mennonite Church of Canada. *Litany: Revelation 21: 1-6*, 5 Apr. 2013, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/litany-revelation-21-1-6.html.

²Rev. Nelson Abbott, Mary. *Opening Prayer: Revelation 21: 1-6*, 9 Apr. 2013, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/opening-prayer-revelation-21-1-6_9.html.

³Rev. Teri. *Prayer: Opening the Windows*, 29 Apr. 2013, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/prayer-opening-windows.html.

⁴Saward, Michael. *Prayer: All Things New*, 5 Apr. 2013, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/prayer-all-things-new.html. - Adapted.

⁵Mennonite Church, Canada. *Sending: Revelation 21: 1-6*, 5 Apr. 2013, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/sending-revelation-21-1-6.html.



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

Harm. © 1964 The United Methodist Publishing House

SLANE
10 10.9 10

484 We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

1. We've a sto - ry to tell to the na - tions that shall turn their
 2. We've a song to be sung to the na - tions that shall lift their
 3. We've a mes - sage to give to the na - tions, that the Lord who
 4. We've a Sav - ior to show to the na - tions, who the path of

hearts to the right, a sto - ry of truth and mer - cy, a
 hearts to the Lord; a song that shall con - quer e - vil and
 reign - eth a - bove hath sent us the Son to save us, and
 sor - row has trod, that all of the world's great peo - ples might

sto - ry of peace and light, a sto - ry of peace and light.
 shat - ter the spear and sword, and shat - ter the spear and sword.
 show us that God is love, and show us that God is love.
 come to the truth of God, might come to the truth of God.

Refrain

For the dark - ness shall turn to dawn - ing, and the dawn - ing to noon - day bright,

WORDS and MUSIC: H. Ernest Nichol, 1896

MESSAGE
 10 8.877 w. refrain

and Christ's great king - dom shall come on earth, the king - dom of love and light.

Refrain (Unison)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim

Fine

till all the world a-dore his sa-cred name.

Harmony

1. Come, Chris-tians, fol - low this tri - um-phunt sign. The
 2. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears
 3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, your
 4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise

D.C.

hosts of God in u - ni - ty com - bine.
 on the brow the seal of Christ who died.
 death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
 to the cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

WORDS: George William Kitchin and Michael Robert Newbolt, 1916, alt.
 MUSIC: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1916

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CRUCIFER
 10.10 w. refrain

$\text{♩} = 56-60$