



**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



February 7, 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. This morning, we will be celebrating the sacrament of communion. We hold that the communion table is open to any and all who desire a closer relationship with Christ. To prepare for this sacrament at home, we invite you to gather communion elements from what you have at hand, some bread or crackers and some juice or water.

**PRELUDE**

**RINGING OF THE CHIMES**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Barry Shelley

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Good people of the church, lift up your eyes and see.

**People: Have you not seen? Have you not heard? Our God greets us here.**

Leader: Good servants of the Most High, open your ears to hear.

**People: Have you not seen? Have you not heard? Our God meets us here.**

Leader: Good children of the light open your hearts and know what it means to delight in God.

**People: For we have seen, heard, and known from the beginning to the end; our God... is.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN**

'Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill'

No. 506

*(scroll down to music)*

**A TIME FOR ALL AGES**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(in unison)*

**God of mercy and grace, we are vulnerable people who sometimes ignore the vulnerable in our midst. We are broken people who don't always pay attention to the world's brokenness. Heal us, O God, to make us better healers. Mend our rifts, that we might be better builders. Cleanse our hearts, so we can clear out the damage of hurt and oppression. We are yours, loving God. Help us to live and to know this better. Amen**

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

### HYMN

'Amen'

No. 317



MUSIC: African-American  
Harm. © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press

### SCRIPTURE

#### Isaiah 40:21-31 (New Revised Standard Version)

Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?  
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;  
who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.  
Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.  
To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.  
Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.  
Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
"My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God"?  
Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

**Mark 1:29-39** *(New International Version)*

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

**SERMON**

Pastor Ann-Marie Illsley

**HYMN**

'The God of Abraham Praise'

No. 24

*(scroll down to music)*

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**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**

All of us have our thresholds - places beyond which it can be so difficult to move. For many of us, generous giving represents such a threshold. Some of us have given in the same way (sometimes even giving the same amount) as we did when we were little children. Some of us have never given before. Some of us want to give, but have no idea how.

Giving takes so many shapes - but, like any spiritual discipline, the key is for that gift to grow. We grow in our knowledge of God, we grow in our faith. If we aren't already, may we not seek to grow in our giving as well? In the time we give? In the money we give? In the love we give?

Let us ponder this growth, and may God shine God's light across the threshold so that nothing can hold us back from this growth.

[www.brocktonucc.org/donate/](http://www.brocktonucc.org/donate/)

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**People: God of all that is, all we have, all we are - we give. We give these gifts as we reach across the thresholds of our concerns. We give these gifts, knowing that they will give so much more. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION

Friends, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, and on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**People: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.**

Leader: This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are invited to be nourished at this table which extends beyond our sanctuary and out into the world.

It is right and beautiful and holy that we should, in ceaseless joy, give our thanks and praise to you Holy and merciful God, through Jesus Christ our Savior. And so, in grateful procession of endless praise with the church that is, was, and shall be forever, we glorify you, joining the unending song proclaiming you as holy.

### SANCTUS

Soloist, Karl Koza

C G7 Am F G C

San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My

F G7 C Am F G7 C

co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res Señ - or!  
heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

No. 111

### COMMUNION PRAYER

#### REMEMBERING THE STORY

And so we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion, the light of the world took bread, broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying, "This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And, in like manner, after supper, Jesus took the cup and after giving thanks gave it to them saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me."

With life's greatest feast set before us we excitedly proclaim the mystery of our faith saying:

**People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE POURING OF THE CUP

## SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

### COMMUNION ANTHEM

'Let Us Break Bread Together'

No. 425

*(scroll down to music)*

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(in unison)*

**We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence. We have been led, Eternal One, by your light. May we bask in this glow now and forevermore. Amen.**

### HYMN

'Lift Every Voice and Sing'

No.631

*(scroll down to music)*

## 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

Karl Koza, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

<sup>1</sup>Rev. Dousa, Kaji. "Epiphany 5 - Year B. February 7, 2021." *United Church of Christ*, 20 Dec. 2020, [www.ucc.org/worship-way/epiphany-5-year-b-february-7-2021/](http://www.ucc.org/worship-way/epiphany-5-year-b-february-7-2021/).

<sup>2</sup>Einerson, Richard. *Pastoral Prayer: February 5, 2012*, 16 Jan. 2012, [re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/pastoral-prayer-february-5-2012.html](http://worship.blogspot.com/2012/01/pastoral-prayer-february-5-2012.html).

## Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill

*Refrain* D Em7/D G/D A/DD G Bm7/A G A

Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,

F#m7 Bm Em7 F#7 G Em A/C# D *Fine*

give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

*Stanzas* Bm F#m/A G

1. You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your  
 2. In the pain and joy be - hold - ing, how your grace is  
 3. Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,  
 4. You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

F Em D/F# G Bm A *To refrain*

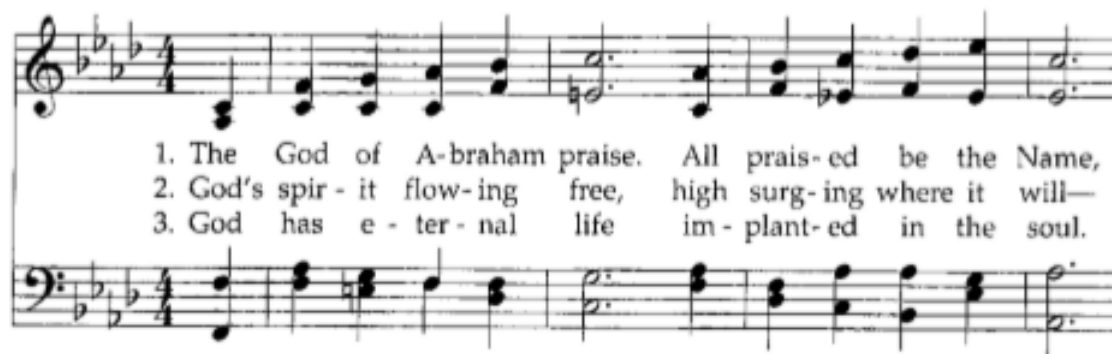
peace and glad - ness, Spir - it of all com - fort: fill our hearts.  
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion: God of love.  
 ev - 'ry broth - er, Spir - it of all kind - ness: be our guide.  
 way of heal - ing, Spir - it of com - pas - sion: fill each heart.

WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1987

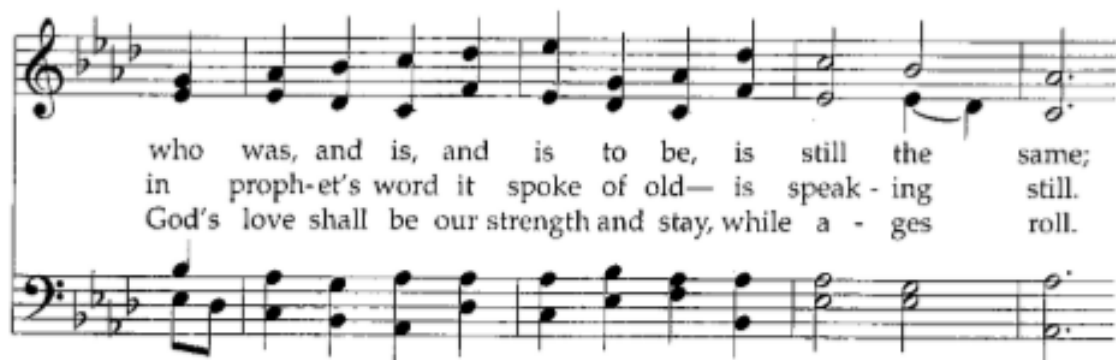
© 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

HEALER  
88.63 w. refrain

♩=96-104



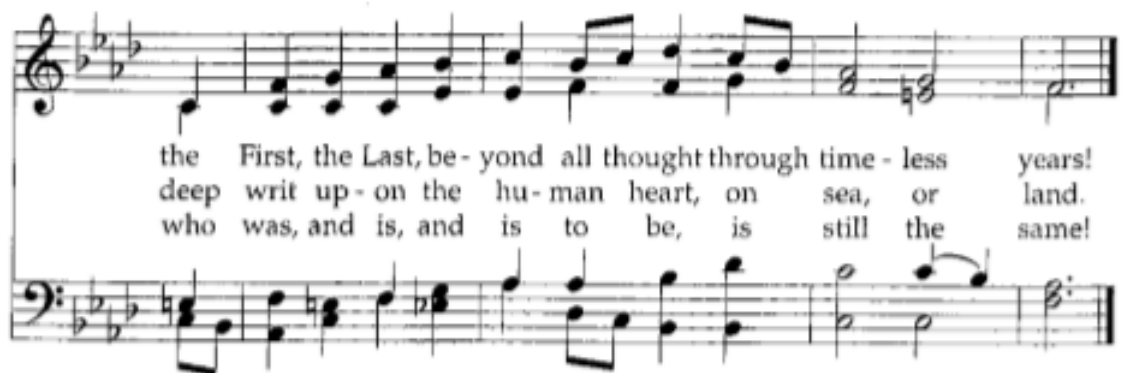
1. The God of A-braham praise. All prais-ed be the Name,  
 2. God's spir - it flow-ing free, high surg-ing where it will—  
 3. God has e - ter - nal life im - plant-ed in the soul.



who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same;  
 in proph-et's word it spoke of old— is speak - ing still.  
 God's love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



the one e - ter - nal God, ere all that now ap - pears,  
 Es - tab - lished is God's law, and change-less it shall stand,  
 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be the Name,



the First, the Last, be - yond all thought through time - less years!  
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea, or land.  
 who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same!

# Let Us Break Bread Together

425

Guitar capo: 1; play D

D Bm G Gmaj7 A7 D G D

1. Let us break bread to- geth- er on our knees; (on our knees)  
 2. Let us drink wine to- geth- er on our knees; (on our knees)  
 3. Let us praise God to- geth- er on our knees; (on our knees)

D A Bm7 E E7 A A

let us break bread to- geth- er on our knees. (on our knees)  
 let us drink wine to- geth- er on our knees. (on our knees)  
 let us praise God to- geth- er on our knees. (on our knees)

*Refrain* D F#m B7 Em Em7 Am

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris- ing sun,

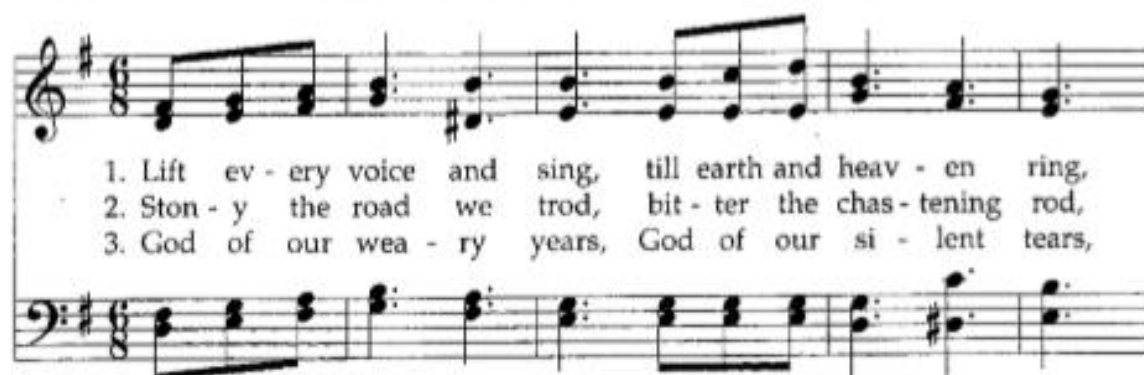
A7 D Bm7 Em9 A7 D G D

O Lord, have mer- cy on me. (on me)

WORDS: African-American spiritual  
 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. Carlton R. Young, 1964, alt.

LET US BREAK BREAD  
 Irr.

## Lift Every Voice and Sing



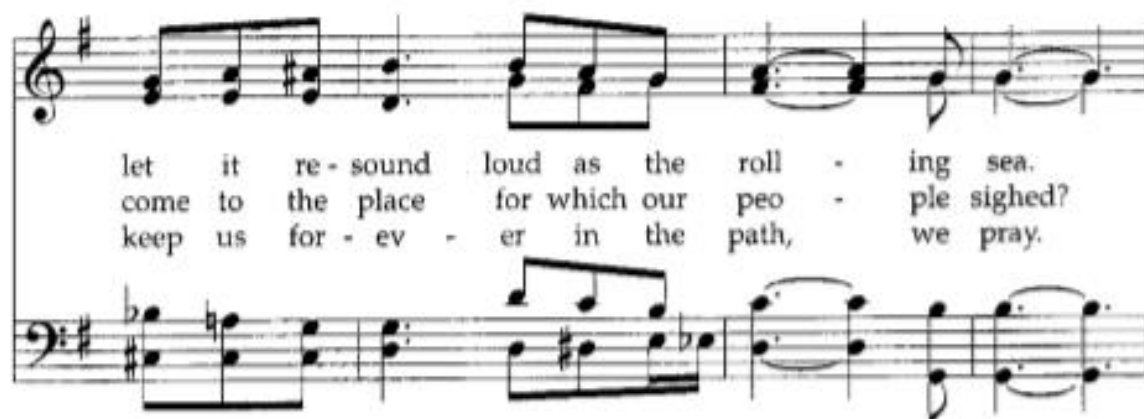
1. Lift ev - ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring,  
 2. Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening rod,  
 3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty;  
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;  
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening skies,  
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet  
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
 come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?  
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

WORDS: James Weldon Johnson, 1921  
 MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

LIFT EVERY VOICE  
 Arr.