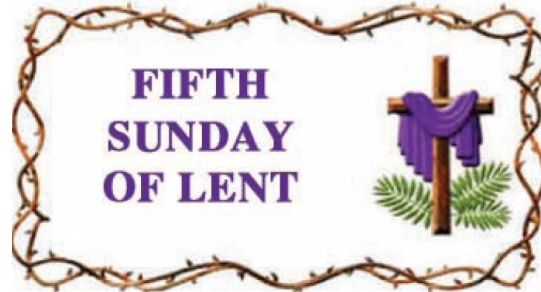




CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



March 21 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) O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig
(Oh Lamb of God, Innocent), BWV 618 J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Nicole Keller, organ

(Our featured organist Nicole Keller will be appearing in the Bach Birthday Bash concert at 3PM this afternoon. Please join the link on our Facebook page "Christ Church Organ Series")

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barry Shelley

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let this be a welcoming place, the place of return.

People: And let it be built by a love that bends toward those who return here.

Leader: For this is a love that has been waiting like a candle in the window, ever lighting the way back and never willing to let go the hope that each child will return home.

People: Let it be the place where the only appropriate response to love that has come to the end of its longing is to kill the fatted calf, feast and celebrate, send up balloons, and prepare the party - for that which has been lost has returned to be among us once more.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

'The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow'

No. 620

(scroll down to music)

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Whenever self obscures the needs of others, forgive us. Whenever we forget who is our neighbor, forgive us. Whenever we pass by on the other side, forgive us. Whenever we forget to say “Well done!” forgive us. Whenever we forget to simply give thanks, forgive us. Whenever we forget the path that we tread, forgive us.

For all those times we bring a tear to your eye, bring us back into your forgiving arms and teach us your way once again. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:11-32

Jesus said, “A certain man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the inheritance.’ Then the father divided his estate between them. Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

“When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have more than enough food, but I’m starving to death! I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands.” ’ So he got up and went to his father.

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then his son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’ Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’ Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”

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

‘Sweet Hour of Prayer’

No. 570

(scroll down to music)

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

‘Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley’

No. 211

sung by Alisa Cassola, soloist

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

Just as the prodigal son was given much, and given much again after returning home - so too have we been blessed again and again by God's abundant love. We gather our offerings not out of simple obligation, but out of profound gratitude for all that God has done for us - and out of hope for what God will continue to do. Let us gather our first fruits and offer of ourselves this day.

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN

(scroll down to music)

'The Lord's Prayer'

No. 310

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Un poco Allegro from
Trio Sonata IV in E minor BWV 528
Nicole Keller, organ

J.S. Bach

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
Nicole Keller, Organist
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter



**ARTS @ CHRIST CHURCH AND
CHRIST CHURCH PIPE ORGAN SERIES PRESENT**



BACH BIRTHDAY BASH

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

FREE—ONLINE ONLY

STREAMING STARTING AT 3:00 PM

Nicole Keller, Organist,

& the

Voyager Guitar Duo:

Victor Main & Jim Davidson



Streaming from
Christ Congregational
Church
Brockton, MA
E-mail: organ@
brocktonucc.org

With support from
the
Brockton Cultural
Council



Link available from our
Facebook Page:
"Christ Church Pipe Organ Series"



¹Hamilton, Roddy. *Prayer Reflection: Return (Luke 15)*, 28 Feb. 2016, re-worship.blogspot.com/2016/02/prayer-reflection-return-luke-15.html.

²Long Green Valley, Church of the Brethren. *Opening Prayer: God of Wonder*, 6 June 2013, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/06/opening-prayer-god-of-wonder.html.

³Birch, John. *Confession: Whenever We Forget*, 24 June 2013, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/06/confession-whenever-we-forget.html.

⁴Terri. *Pastoral Prayer: Prodigal Grace*, 28 Feb. 2016, re-worship.blogspot.com/2016/02/pastoral-prayer-prodigal-grace.html.

620 The Lord Will Make a Way Somehow

1. Like a ship that's toss'd and driv-en, bat-tered by an an - gry sea,
 2. Try to do my best in serv-ice, try to live the best I can,
 3. Of-ten there's mis-un-der-stand-ing out of all the good I do,

when the storms of life are rag - ing and their fu - ry falls on me,
 when I choose to do the right thing, e - vil's pre - sent on ev - 'ry hand,
 go to friends for con - so - la - tion and I find them com - plain - ing too,

I won - der what I have done that makes this race so hard to run,
 I look up and won - der why that good for - tune pass me by,
 so man - y nights I toss in pain, won - der - ing what the day will bring,

then I say to my soul, take cour - age, the Lord will make a way some - how.
 then I say to my soul, be pa - tient, the Lord will make a way some - how.
 but I say to my heart, don't wor - ry, the Lord will make a way some - how.

WORDS and MUSIC: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1943

SOMEHOW
 ltr.

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♩=92-100

Refrain

The Lord will make a way some - how, when be - neath the cross I
 some - how,

bow; He will take a - way each sor - row, let him have your
 I bow; way each sor - row,

bur - dens now; when the load bears down so heav - y the
 all your bur - dens; down so heav - y,

weight is shown up - on my brow, there's a sweet re - lief in
 on my brow,

know - ing, oh, the Lord will make a way some - how.
 in know - ing some - how.

Sweet Hour of Prayer!

1. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! that calls me
 2. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! the joys I
 3. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! thy wings shall

from a world of care, and bids me at my
 feel, the bliss I share of those whose anx - ious
 my pe - ti - tion bear to him whose truth and

Fa - ther's throne make all my wants and wish - es known.
 spir - its burn with strong de - sires for thy re - turn!
 faith - ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.

In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief, my soul has
 With such I has - ten to the place where God my
 And since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his

WORDS: William Walford, 1845
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1861

SWEET HOUR
 LMD

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley 211

F F7 B^b Gm7

1. Je - sus walked this lone-some val-ley, he had to
 2. We must walk this lone-some val-ley, we have to
 3. You must go and stand your tri - al, you have to

F Dm Gm C7 F7 3

walk it by him-self; O, no-bod-y else could walk it
 walk it by our-selves; O, no-bod-y else can walk it
 stand it by your-self, O, no-bod-y else can stand it

B^b Gm7 F Gm C7 1-2 F B^b F 3 F

for him, he had to walk it by him - self.
 for us, we have to walk it by our - selves.
 for you, you have to stand it by your - self.

WORDS: American spiritual
 MUSIC: American spiritual; arr. Bill Thomas, 1994
 Arr. © 1995 Chalice Press

LONESOME VALLEY
 88.10 8

The Lord's Prayer

F Dm B^b F/A Fsus4/G

Csus9 C F Dm B^b F/A Fsus4/G

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-low-ed be your

B^b/C C F Dm C

name, your king-dom come, your will be done on

B^b B^b/F F B^b F/A

earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our

Gm Dm7/F Gm F/A Csus4 C

dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as

Gm7 Dm7/F E^b B^b/D B^b/C C7

we for-give those who sin a-gainst us.

F Dm B^b F/A

Save us from the time of trial and de-liv-er us from

Dm Dm7/C B^b F/A Gm F/A

e-vil for the king-dom, the pow'r and the glo-ry are yours,

Gm7 F/A B^b B^b/C C B^b/F F

now and for-ev-er.

WORDS: Matthew 6:9-13
MUSIC: David Haas, 1986, alt.

HAAS
Irr.

Music © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

$\text{♩} = 100-104$