



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



May 2, 2021

9:55 am

Welcome to worship! We are glad to join together for worship in person and 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: As we gather, may we open our hearts to receive newness of life.

People: We come with hope for renewal.

Leader: In our time of worship, may we be inspired by God's wisdom.

People: We come seeking to learn and to draw closer to God.

Leader: Come, let us worship, as the beloved children of God. Let us pray...

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Cultivating God, we come as your children to grow and learn, because you are our divine vine grower. God, we desire for you to abide within us, and for your grace to be revealed anew daily. As your branches, we ask you to nourish us for continued growth. May you transform our hearts and minds as we hear your Word, sing your praises, and engage in holy dialogue through prayer.

People: May you help us to bear good fruit through the vine of Jesus Christ. In Whose name we pray, Amen.

HYMN

'Called as Partners in Christ's Service'

No. 453

(scroll down to music)

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: O God, giver of life, we confess the times when we fail to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. God, forgive us when we ignore or we fail to see our neighbors in need. Abiding God, also forgive us when we reject love from others, and shut down completely. As we confess the times when we did not tend to our own needs, and denied ourselves of your forgiveness and grace. In our failures, we have refused your invitation to grow closer to you.

ALL: In our confession, O God, we pray your abiding love be shown through the ways we love more fully. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SCRIPTURE

John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

HYMN

'Through It All'

No. 555

(scroll down to music)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Leader: Gracious God, you give us the Word that turns us again and again to you. You give us Jesus who is the greatest manifestation of your word, your love, and your purpose. Help us to live fully as baptized people, those grafted into Jesus the branch, the crucified and risen One. God of the risen Jesus...

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: God of all dominion and power, God of love; we can love only because you first loved us. Empower us by your Holy Spirit to be and do the same. When we rest in your love, fear - though present - cannot overpower us. Help us to rest there always. God of the risen Jesus...

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Now let us pray together in the way Jesus taught saying...

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. And 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

Today we are invited to become deeply attached, close, and loyal as branches who are connected with Jesus Christ, our vine. We bear fruit with a spirit of love helping each other. So, let our offering lift up one another in God's love that abides with us in all times. Let our offering be a thanksgiving of God's love that abides within us. And let us accept God's invitation to be ever-present in times of deep despair, and in times of great joy. Now, let us offer ourselves in gratitude and with generosity, as fruits representing the abiding goodness of God.

www.brocktonucc.org/donate/

OFFERTORY

'I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me'

No. 614

PRAYER OF DEDICATION



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Friends, God is here.

People: God's Spirit is with us.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the God of love.

People: It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Leader: It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you have sent your Own as the Savior of the world and your Spirit to graft us into the vine of life. In your Child, Jesus Christ, we have seen your promises fulfilled, and through the resurrection...

People: Christ has broken the power of death.

Leader: In your perfect love, our fear is cast out and now, like branches of a vine, we live in Christ and draw our life from Christ...

People: ...that we might bear much fruit to your glory.

SANCTUS

No. 111

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

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!

REMEMBERING THE STORY

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE POURING OF THE CUP

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Leader: This bread that we have broken is the bread of life. It is the sign of Christ's body

People: It is the sign of our unity with one another in the Spirit of love and peace.

Leader: Take, eat, and be one with him.

Leader: This is Jesus, the true vine, without whom we can do nothing. This cup is a sign of God's ever flowing love, through the true vine, into our very lives.

People: Through this cup we receive God's love, which will enable us to bear good fruit.

Leader: Take, drink, and be one in his love.

COMMUNION MUSIC

'In This Very Room'

No. 295

(scroll down to music)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(in unison)*

God of all fruitfulness, we thank you for giving us the true vine, Jesus Christ. We know that Christ abides in us by the Spirit given to us. Separated from Christ we can do nothing. Enable us to love one another, not only in word, but in truth and action, just as Christ has commanded us. We ask this in the name of our Savior. Amen.

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. Dr. Harvey Guillaume, Sheila. "Easter 5 - May 2." *United Church of Christ*, 23 Apr. 2021, www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-5-may-2/.

²Sartison, Telmor. *Pastoral Prayer: Easter 5 B*, 24 Apr. 2012, re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/04/pastoral-prayer-easter-5-b.html.

³Peters, Bosco. *Liturgy May 6, 2012*, 6 May 2012,

CHRIST CHURCH PIPE ORGAN SERIES PRESENTS:



Midday Music on May 19th
Streaming online starting at 12 noon

“Songs of Spring and Love”

Featuring Harpist, Alison Read

To receive the link by email, send message to organ@brocktonucc.org

453 Called as Partners in Christ's Service



1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is - tries of grace,
 2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in- spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4. So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



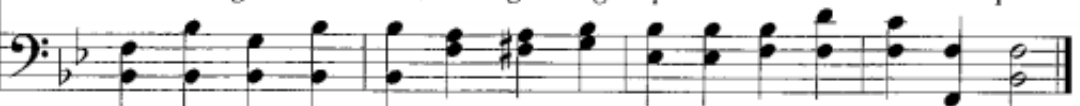
we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quests strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



Through It All

555

Through it all, through it all,

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats. The treble staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics 'Through it all, through it all,'. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and a bass line.

I've learned to trust in Je-sus, I've learned to trust in God;

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has the lyrics 'I've learned to trust in Je-sus, I've learned to trust in God;'. The bass staff continues the accompaniment.

through it all, through it all,

The third system repeats the phrase 'through it all, through it all,'. The treble staff has the lyrics 'through it all, through it all,'. The bass staff continues the accompaniment.

I've learned to de-pend up-on God's word.

The fourth system concludes the phrase 'I've learned to de-pend up-on God's word.' The treble staff has the lyrics 'I've learned to de-pend up-on God's word.' The bass staff continues the accompaniment.

WORDS and MUSIC: Andraé Crouch, 1971

© 1971 Manna Music, Inc.

THROUGH IT ALL

lrr.

$\text{♩} = 56-64$

614 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

With a backbeat G C G Am7 G

1. I'm gon-na live so God can use me
(I'm gon-na live so) (God can

G7 C G7 C Am G C

use me,) an - y time and an - y - where
(yes an - y time) (yes an - y -

G G C G B7

where) I'm gon-na live so God can use me
(I'm gon-na live so)

Em C G A7 D7 G C G

an - y time and an - y - where.
(an - y time,) (yes an - y - where).

2. I'm gonna work...

3. I'm gonna pray...

4. I'm gonna sing...

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

I'M GONNA LIVE
Irr.

Arr. © 1995 Chalice Press

In This Very Room

1. In this ver-y room there's quite e-nough love for one like me,
 2. In this ver-y room there's quite e-nough love for all of us,
 3. In this ver-y room there's quite e-nough love for all the world,

and in this ver-y room there's quite e-nough joy for one like me;
 and in this ver-y room there's quite e-nough joy for all of us;
 and in this ver-y room there's quite e-nough joy for all the world;

and there's quite e-nough hope, and

quite e-nough pow'r to chase a-way an-y gloom, for

Je - sus, Lord Je - sus, is in this ver - y room.

WORDS and MUSIC: Ron and Carol Harris, 1979

IN THIS VERY ROOM
lrr.

© 1979 Ron Harris Music

♩=80-88