



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



August 13, 2023

9:55 am

AN ASTERISK IN THE BULLETIN INDICATES THAT ALL FOR WHOM IT IS COMFORTABLE SHOULD RISE FOR THAT PART OF THE SERVICE

PRELUDE

Hymn Medley



RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moriah Park



***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

'Lord, I Want to Be a Christian'

No. 589

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: Come, Spirit of Truth, fill our hearts.

People: May that which was of stone be transformed now into life.

Leader: Come, Spirit of Life, change our hearts.

People: May we who receive your light dwell together in Your love.

Leader: Come, Spirit of Love, soften our hearts.

People: Bestow your compassion on those who suffer in mind, spirit, and body.

Leader: Come, Spirit of Hope, heal our hearts.

People: Make us bold to bring light to the dark places, warmth to the cold places, and love to the empty places.

Leader: Come, Spirit of Faith, strengthen our hearts.

People: Spirit of the Living God, fill our hearts, minds, and souls to overflowing.

Leader: Come, Spirit of God, move in our hearts.

People: Our God - we, your people, celebrate the mystery of your never-ending love. Amen.



OPENING PRAYER²



PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

ALL: Merciful God, we confess that we have not always held tightly to our faith. We admit that, if it's not right in front of us, we have a hard time believing something exists. In our blindness we have missed signs of your endless love, not only for ourselves, but for your other children too. Forgive us for being tentative. Forgive us for holding back when you continue to invite us out into your creation. Remind us once again of your promises, restore our faith in you and in your love, and bring us closer together in your Spirit. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Pastor Jeff



HYMN OF PREPARATION

'Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts'

No. 101

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

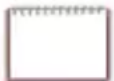
¹ Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see. ² The elders in the past were approved because they showed faith.

³ By faith we understand that the universe has been created by a word from God so that the visible came into existence from the invisible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out without knowing where he was going.

⁹ By faith he lived in the land he had been promised as a stranger. He lived in tents along with Isaac and Jacob, who were coheirs of the same promise. ¹⁰ He was looking forward to a city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹ By faith even Sarah received the ability to have a child, though she herself was barren and past the age for having children, because she believed that the one who promised was faithful. ¹² So descendants were born from one man (and he was as good as dead). They were as many as the number of the stars in the sky and as countless as the grains of sand on the seashore. ¹³ All these people died in faith without receiving the promises, but they saw the promises from a distance and welcomed them. They confessed that they were strangers and immigrants on earth. ¹⁴ People who say this kind of thing make it clear that they are looking for a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking about the country that they had left, they would have had the opportunity to return to it. ¹⁶ But at this point in time, they are longing for a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God isn't ashamed to be called their God—he has prepared a city for them.



SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Alex Green

During this time, we invite you to embrace the transition from hearing the word to gathering ourselves in prayer by taking a moment for quiet reflection either in your pew, or by coming forward to light a candle to give light to the prayer(s) on your heart that have no words to be expressed.

Come and Light a Candle...



PASTORAL PRAYER

We will continue to share prayer concerns among the congregation by lifting up the name of a person, or naming a situation, at which point Pastor Jeff will repeat the concern raised. Once Pastor Jeff has repeated the concern the entire congregation will respond with "God in your mercy, hear our prayer". Once we have concluded sharing our prayer concerns Pastor Jeff will begin today's pastoral prayer, followed by the prayer of Jesus.



THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(in unison)*

Our Creator (Father) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kin-dom 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 Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.



HYMN

'Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us'

No. 231

CALL FOR OFFERINGS



OFFERTORY

'All You Need Is Love'

Jessica Gross

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

'For the Beauty of the Earth' (verse 4)

No. 56



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION



*HYMN

'Alleluia! Sing to Jesus'

No. 233

BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE

'Glory, Glory, Hallelujah'

African-American spiritual

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Alex Green, Guest Organist/Accompanist

Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

¹Hiday, Roberta. "Prayer: Come, Spirit." *Prayer: Come, Spirit*, 2008, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/prayer-come-spirit.html.

²Hawker, Katherine. "Opening Prayers: Hebrews 11." *Opening Prayers: Hebrews 11*, re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/07/opening-prayers-hebrews-11.html. Accessed 3 Aug. 2023.

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
 3. Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in-a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in-a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in-a my heart.

In-a my heart, in-a my heart, in-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in-a my heart. (in-a my heart.)
 Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in-a my heart. (in-a my heart.)
 Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in-a my heart. (in-a my heart.)

WORDS: African-American spiritual
 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; harm. Larry Sivis, 1993

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN
 Irr.

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts 101

1. Je - sus, thou joy of lov - ing hearts, thou fount of
 2. Thy gra - cious word hath ev - er stood: thou sav - est
 3. We taste thee, O thou liv - ing bread, and long to
 4. Our rest - less spir - its yearn for thee, wher - e'er our
 5. O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay; make all our

1. life, thou light of light, great - er than plea - sure
 2. those that on thee call; to them that seek thee,
 3. feast up - on thee still; we drink of thee, the
 4. change - ful lot is cast: glad when thy gra - cious
 5. mo - ments calm and bright; ban - ish the sin of

1. earth im - parts, thy love is true and pure de - light.
 2. thou art good; to them that find thee, all in all.
 3. foun - tain - head, and thirst our souls from thee to fill.
 4. smile we see; blest when our faith can hold thee fast.
 5. earth, we pray; shed o'er the world thy ho - ly light.

WORDS: Latin (12th century); tr. Ray Palmer, 1858, alt.
 MUSIC: Henry Baker, 1854

QUEBEC
 LM

231 Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us

F Dm Gm Dm Am Gm7

1. Sing of one who walks be - side us and this day is
 2. We have walked with him as strang - ers through the jour - ney
 3. Ris - en one, stay with us, raise us, once a - gain the

B \flat 7 Dm C Dm C B \flat 7

liv - ing still, one who now is clos - er to us
 of the day, and have told him of the vi - o - lence
 night is near. Dine with us and share your wis - dom,

Am B \flat 7 C F F Dm7

than the thoughts our hearts dis - till, Christ who once up -
 that has swept our hope a - way. He has of - fered
 free our hearts from ev - 'ry fear. In the calm of

B \flat 7 Gm7 B \flat 7 Am7 B \flat 7 Gm7 C

on a hill - top, raised a - gainst the power of sin,
 words of com - fort, words of en - er - gy and light.
 each new eve - ning, in the fresh - ness of each dawn,

WORDS: Ralph Wright, 1989, alt.

MUSIC: William Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; harm. Charles Anders, 1969, alt.

HOLY MANNA

87.87D

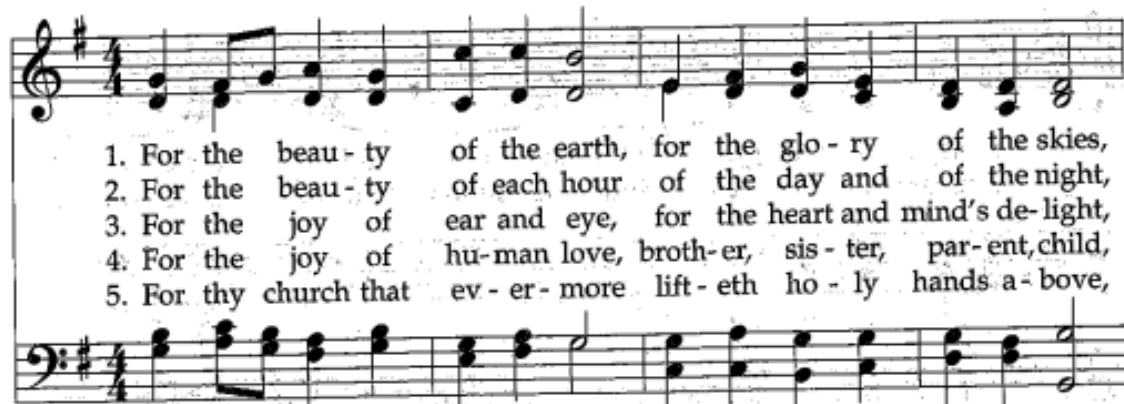
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 used by permission of Augsburg Fortress

F Dm C Gm7 Am B \flat 7 C6 C F

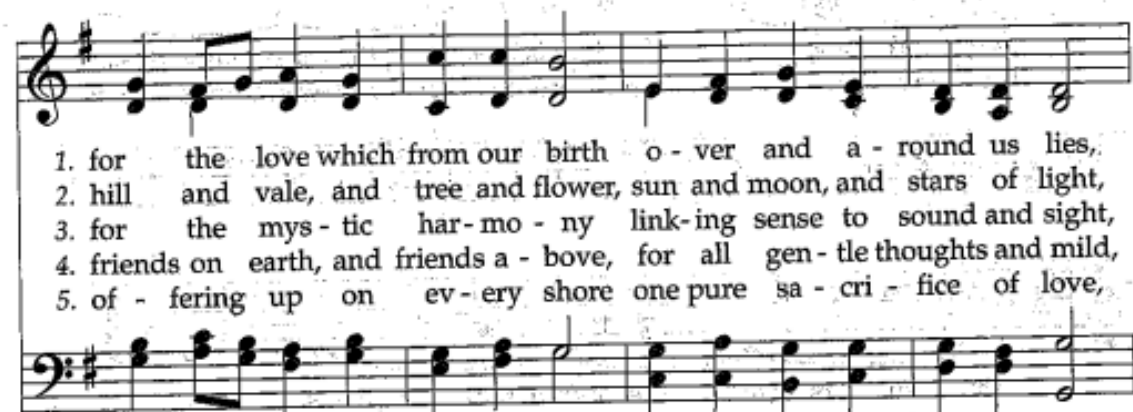
died in love as his own crea - tures cru - ci - fied their God and Friend!
 Did our hearts not blaze with - in us as he broke the bread this night?
 if you hold us fast in friend - ship we will nev - er be a - lone.

For the Beauty of the Earth

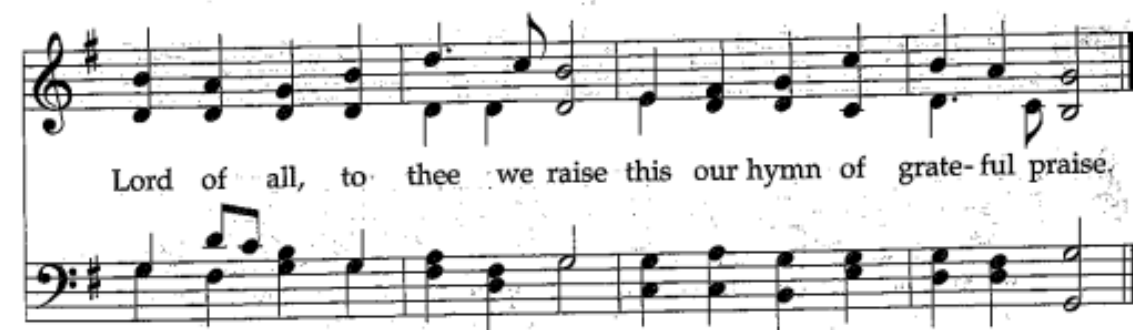
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1. For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,
 2. For the beau-ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,
 4. For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 5. For thy church that ev-er-more lift-eth ho-ly hands a-bove,



1. for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
 2. hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 3. for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight,
 4. friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
 5. of-fering up on ev-ery shore one pure sa-cri-fice of love,



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

WORDS: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864
 MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. William Henry Monk, 1861

DIX
 77.77.77

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus, ris - en now to reign in love.
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans we are left in sor - row now.
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of Heav - en, be on earth our food and stay.

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Sav - ior; with the mul - ti - tudes a - bove.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
 Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to you from day to day.

There the songs of saints and mar - tyrs thun - der like a might - y flood,
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er,
 In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, plead for me,

"Je - sus out of ev - ery na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 shall our hearts for - get the prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 where the songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1866, alt.
 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

HYFRYDOL
 87.87D