



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



September 3, 2023

10:00 am

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



RINGING OF THE CHIMES

Sylvia Berry

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moriah Park



***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

'God of Grace and God of Glory'

No. 464

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: Give thanks to the Holy One!

People: The God of our ancestors is with us!

Leader: Give thanks to the Holy One!

People: We call upon the name of our God, and our God responds.

Leader: Give thanks to the Holy One!

People: The steadfast and faithful love of our God lasts forever!



OPENING PRAYER¹



PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹

ALL: Forgiving God, we acknowledge that repentance opens the door to forgiveness and transformation. We turn from our desire for comfort over compassion, easy solutions or challenging resolution, and avoidance over confrontation. We need your strength, fortitude, and conviction to overcome our fear of loss to make room for the gains of new life for ourselves and our neighbors through our generous and sacrificial living. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE¹



HYMN OF PREPARATION

'Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise'

No. 66

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:1-15

3 Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. 2 The LORD's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. 3 Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up.

4 When the LORD saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

Moses said, "I'm here."

5 Then the LORD said, "Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground." 6 He continued, "I am the God of your father, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

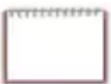
7 Then the LORD said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. 8 I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. 9 Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. 10 So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

12 God said, "I'll be with you. And this will show you that I'm the one who sent you. After you bring the people out of Egypt, you will come back here and worship God on this mountain."

13 But Moses said to God, "If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they are going to ask me, 'What's this God's name?' What am I supposed to say to them?"

14 God said to Moses, "I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, 'I Am has sent me to you.'" 15 God continued, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, Abraham's God, Isaac's God, and Jacob's God, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me.



SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Steven Young

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

'Spirit of God, Descent upon My Heart'

No. 265

CALL FOR OFFERINGS¹



OFFERTORY

Steven Young

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

'O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing' (verses 1&4)

No. 5



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹



SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(children are invited to come forward to sit on the floor in front of the communion table)

ALL: God is great, God is good, and we thank God for our food, by God's hands we all are fed, give us God our daily bread. Amen.

REMEMBERING THE STORY

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & POURING THE CUP

COMMUNION HYMN

'Spirit'

No. 249

SHARING THE ELEMENTS *(In Pews)*



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(sign language with Mr. David)*

"Thank You God"

"You Are Good"

"We Are Loved"

"Amen"



*HYMN

'Pass It On'

No. 477

BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE

Steven Young

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

Steven Young, Guest Organist/Accompanist

Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

¹Lindsay, Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. "After Pentecost 14A - September 3." *United Church of Christ*, 21 Aug. 2023, www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-14a-september-3/.

God of Grace and God of Glory 464

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; fill our lives that
 5. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

1. pour thy power; crown thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 2. sail thy ways! From the fears that long have bound us,
 3. thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 4. we may be strength - ened with all Christ - like gra - ces
 5. we de - plore; let the search for thy sal - va - tion

1. bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 2. free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 3. rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 4. pledged to set all cap - tives free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 5. be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

1. for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 2. for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 3. lest we miss thy righ - teous goal, lest we miss thy righ - teous goal.
 4. lest we fail our call from thee, lest we fail our call from thee.
 5. serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

WORDS: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930
 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
 87.87.877

Alt. tune: REGENT SQUARE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 66

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 all prais - es we ren - der: O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 that on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.
 MUSIC: Welsh folk melody

ST. DENIO
 11 11.11 11

265 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh;
 4. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love;

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear;
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - it - ant, no o - pening skies,
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove.

and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 My heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

WORDS: George Croly, 1867
 MUSIC: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

MORECAMBE
 10.10.10

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

5

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease;
3. My lov - ing Sav - ior and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
4. Glo - ry to God and praise and love be ev - er, ev - er given

the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace!
'tis mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of thy name.
by saints be - low and saints a - bove, the church in earth and heaven.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON
CM

Spirit

Unison

Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tie - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness,

call - ing and free, Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,

stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.

1. You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the
 2. You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the
 3. You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a
 4. You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

WORDS and MUSIC: James K. Manley, 1975

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SPRIT

Ir.

♩=132-140

deep, then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the
 sand, and you gift - ed your peo - ple with a
 hill, then you whis - pered in si - lence when the
 schemes; from the bond - age of sor - row the

val - leys of sleep, and o - ver the e - ons you
 law and a land, when they were con - found - ed with
 whole world was still, and down in the cit - y you
 cap - tives dream dreams; our wom - en see vi - sions, our

called to each thing, "A - wake from your slum -
 i - dols and lies, then you spoke through your proph -
 called once a - gain when you blew through your peo -
 men clear their eyes. With bold new de - ci -

bers and rise on your wings.
 ets to o - pen their eyes.
 ple on the rush of the wind.
 sions your peo - ple a - rise.

Pass It On

477

Tempo: Allegro

1. It on - ly takes a spark to get a fire go - ing,
 2. What a won - drous time is spring when all the trees are bud - ding,
 3. I wish for you, my friend, this hap - pi - ness that I've found—

and soon all those a - round can warm up in its glow - ing;
 the birds be - gin to sing, the flow - ers start their bloom - ing;
 on God you can de - pend, it mat - ters not where you're bound;

that's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per - i - enced it:
 that's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per - i - enced it:
 I'll shout it from the moun - tain top, I want my world to know:

you spread God's love to ev - ery - one, you want to pass it on.
 you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.
 the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

WORDS and MUSIC: Kurt Kaiser, 1969

PASS IT ON
 Irr.

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