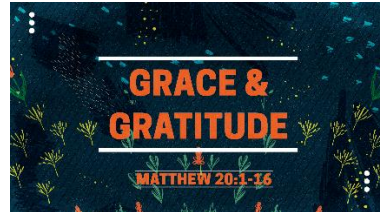




**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



September 24, 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**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Moriah Park

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

'Take My Life'

No. 609

**CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

One: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

**Many: Great is our God and greatly to be praised.**

One: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

**Many: This generation will tell the next generation so they may tell the next generation of the Holy One's magnificent and mighty acts.**

One: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One forever and ever!

**Many: We declare the abundant goodness, gracious righteousness, and holy love of our God. Praise the Holy One!**

**OPENING PRAYER<sup>1</sup>**

**PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE<sup>1</sup>**

**ALL: God of abundance, forgive us for embracing a worldview that capitalizes on scarcity. Help us to know that you have given us enough for our journey. You have created us wonderfully and uniquely. Forgive us for comparing ourselves with our neighbor when we are called to love them. Help us to embrace how you have made us as individuals who may bring our singular gifts to our common life. Amen.**

**WORDS OF GRACE<sup>1</sup>**

**A TIME FOR ALL AGES**

Dani Kardisco

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION**

'I Would Be True'

No. 608

## SCRIPTURE

### Matthew 20:1-16

**20** “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion, he sent them into his vineyard.

<sup>3</sup> “Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup> He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I’ll pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup> And they went.

“Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. <sup>6</sup> Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you just standing around here doing nothing all day long?’

<sup>7</sup> “‘Because nobody has hired us,’ they replied.

“He responded, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

<sup>8</sup> “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to the first.’ <sup>9</sup> When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. <sup>10</sup> Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarion. <sup>11</sup> When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> ‘These who were hired last worked one hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.’

<sup>13</sup> “But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn’t I agree to pay you a denarion? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Don’t I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I’m generous?’ <sup>16</sup> So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last.”

## 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** 'How Firm a Foundation' No. 618

## **CALL FOR OFFERINGS<sup>1</sup>**

**OFFERTORY** Alex Green

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE** 'Now Thank We All Our God' (vs. 1) No. 715

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION<sup>1</sup>**

**\*HYMN** 'I Am the Light of the World!' No. 469

## **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Alex Green

### **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

<sup>1</sup>Lindsay, Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. "After Pentecost 17a - September 24." *United Church of Christ*, 1 Sept. 2023, [www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-17a-september-24/](http://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-17a-september-24/).

# Take My Life

609

1. Take my life, and let it be con-se-crath-ed, Lord, to thee.  
 2. Take my hands, and let them move at the im-pulse of thy love.  
 3. Take my voice, and let me sing; un-to God my praise I bring.  
 4. Take my sil-ver and my gold, not a mite would I with-hold;  
 5. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no lon-ger mine.  
 6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its trea-sure store.

1. Take my mo-ments and my days; let them flow in  
 2. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beau-ti-  
 3. Take my lips and let them be filled with mes-sa-  
 4. Take my in-tel-lect, and use ev-ery power as  
 5. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy  
 6. Take my-self, and I will be ev-er, on-ly,

1. cease-less praise, let them flow in cease-less praise.  
 2. ful for thee, swift and beau-ti-ful for thee.  
 3. ges from thee, filled with mes-sa-ges from thee.  
 4. thou shalt choose, ev-ery power as thou shalt choose.  
 5. roy-al throne, it shall be thy roy-al throne.  
 6. all for thee, ev-er, on-ly, all for thee.

WORDS: Frances R. Havergal, 1874  
 MUSIC: H. A. César Malan, 1827

HENDON  
 77.77.7

## I Would Be True

1. I would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
2. I would be friend of all the foe, the friend-less;

I would be pure, for there are those who care;  
I would be giving, and forget the gift;

I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;  
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;

I would be brave, for there is much to dare,  
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift,

I would be brave, for there is much to dare.  
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift.

WORDS: Howard Arnold Walter, 1906  
MUSIC: Joseph Yates Peek, 1909

PEEK  
11 10.11 10 10

## How Firm a Foundation

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
 2. "Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,  
 3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
 4. "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
 5. "The soul that on Je - sus still leans for re - pose,

1. is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent word!  
 2. for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid.  
 3. the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;  
 4. my grace, all suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply.  
 5. I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

1. What more can be said than to you God has said,  
 2. I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
 3. for I will be near thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
 4. The flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
 5. that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

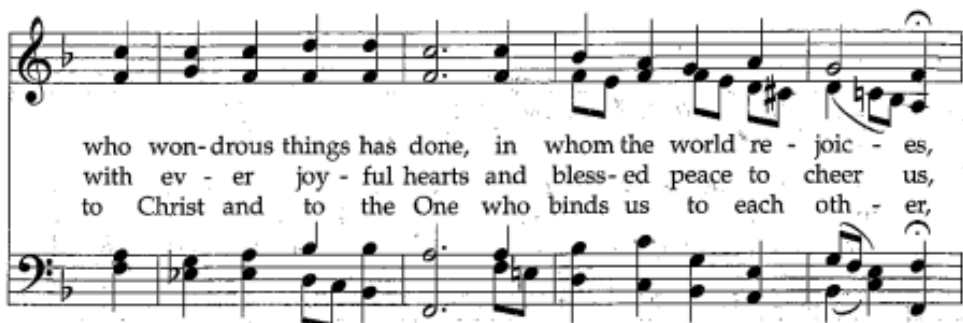
1. to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 2. up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.  
 3. and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
 4. thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
 5. I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

WORDS: John Rippon's *Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.  
 MUSIC: Traditional American melody

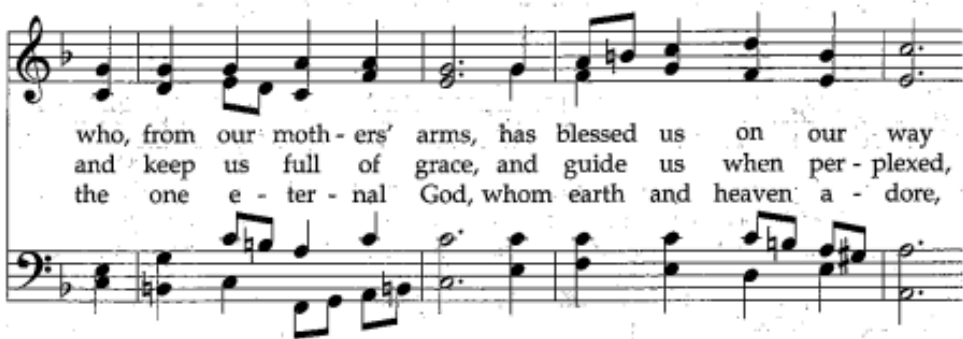
FOUNDATION  
 11 11.11 11



1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,  
 2. O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,  
 3. All praise and thanks to God our Fa - ther and our Moth - er,



who won-drous things has done, in whom the world re - joic - es,  
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,  
 to Christ and to the One who binds us to each oth - er,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blessed us on our way  
 and keep us full of grace, and guide us when per - plexed,  
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore,



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

WORDS: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.  
 MUSIC: Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

NUN DANKET  
 67.67.66.66

# I Am the Light of the World!

*Unison* F B $\flat$  C F

"I am the light of the world!"

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!" If you

fol-low and love you'll learn the mys-ter-y of

what you were meant to do and be.

*Fine*

F B $\flat$  C F

1. When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the  
 2. To find the lost and lone-ly one, to  
 3. To free the pris-ner from all chains, to  
 4. To bring hope to ev-'ry task you do, to

Gm Dm C

star in the sky is gone, when the  
 heal the bro-ken soul with love, to  
 make the pow-er-ful care, to  
 dance at a ba-by's new birth, to

F B $\flat$  C F

ma-gi and the shep-herds have found their way home, the  
 feed the hun-gry chil-dren with warmth and good food, to  
 re-build the na-tions with strength of good will, to  
 make mu-sic in an old per-son's heart, and

Gm B $\flat$  C

work of Christ-mas is be-gun:  
 feel the earth be-low, the sky a-bove!  
 see God's chil-dren ev-'ry-where!  
 sing to the col-ors of the earth!

WORDS: Jim Strathdee, 1969, in response to a Christmas poem  
 by Howard Thurman  
 MUSIC: Jim Strathdee, 1969

LIGHT OF THE WORLD  
 Irr.  
 ♩=92-100

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