



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



November 12 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**

'We Gather Together'

No. 276

***CALL TO WORSHIP¹**

Leader: The time for harvest is close at hand. What have you done with the gifts God has given you?

People: We have brought our gifts to the house of God.

Leader: Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.

People: We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.

Leader: Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.

People: Loving God,

OPENING PRAYER

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

ALL: God of Grace and Love, we confess that too often we have been like the last servant - too scared to lose what we've been trusted with, to the point we render it useless. We bury our talents and treasures rather risking them for your glory. On this pledge dedication Sunday help us to remember that you have blessed us, so that we can be a blessing to others. You have provided for us, so that we can provide in turn. Inspire us to give what we have, regardless of the gift, so that we can be your partners in the advancement of your kin-dom here and throughout the world. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco

***HYMN OF PREPARATION**

'Come, Sing a Song of Harvest'

No. 719

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:14-29

¹⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who was leaving on a trip. He called his servants and handed his possessions over to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five valuable coins, and to another he gave two, and to another he gave one. He gave to each servant according to that servant’s ability. Then he left on his journey.

¹⁶ “After the man left, the servant who had five valuable coins took them and went to work doing business with them. He gained five more. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had two valuable coins gained two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who had received the one valuable coin dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money.

¹⁹ “Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The one who had received five valuable coins came forward with five additional coins. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained five more.’

²¹ “His master replied, ‘Excellent! You are a good and faithful servant! You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

²² “The second servant also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two valuable coins. Look, I’ve gained two more.’

²³ “His master replied, ‘Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You’ve been faithful over a little. I’ll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.’

²⁴ “Now the one who had received one valuable coin came and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest grain where you haven’t sown. You gather crops where you haven’t spread seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid. And I hid my valuable coin in the ground. Here, you have what’s yours.’

²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You evil and lazy servant! You knew that I harvest grain where I haven’t sown and that I gather crops where I haven’t spread seed? ²⁷ In that case, you should have turned my money over to the bankers so that when I returned, you could give me what belonged to me with interest. ²⁸ Therefore, take from him the valuable coin and give it to the one who has ten coins. ²⁹ Those who have much will receive more, and they will have more than they need. But as for those who don’t have much, even the little bit they have will be taken away from them.

SERMON

Pastor Jeff

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.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Donna Costa

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY 'Sizohamba naye' Traditional Swazi/Perona-Wright

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** 'I Thank You, Jesus' (vs. 1) No. 116

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION & DEDICATION OF PLEDGES FOR 2024**

***HYMN** 'Be Still, My Soul' No. 566

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "St. Dunstan's" Douglas/Wagner

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor
Alex Green, Music Director
Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹Townley, Nancy C. "Call to Worship: Matthew 25: 14-30." *Call to Worship: Matthew 25: 14-30*, 13 Nov. 2011, re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/10/call-to-worship-matthew-25-14-30.html.

We Gather Together

276

C Dm7 G C

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask for God's bless - ing,
 2. Be - side us to guide us, O God, we per - ceive you
 3. May all sing your prais - es, Re - deem - er tri - um - phant,

G C D G Am D7 G

to turn to a wis - dom sur - pass - ing our own;
 or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing the pow - er of life.
 de - fend us, be - friend us, what - ev - er may be.

G7 C Dm7 G7

the pow'rs that op - press us now cease to dis - tress us.
 Yes, yours be the glo - ry; let all tell the sto - ry.
 May your con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion.

F G C Dm7 G7 C

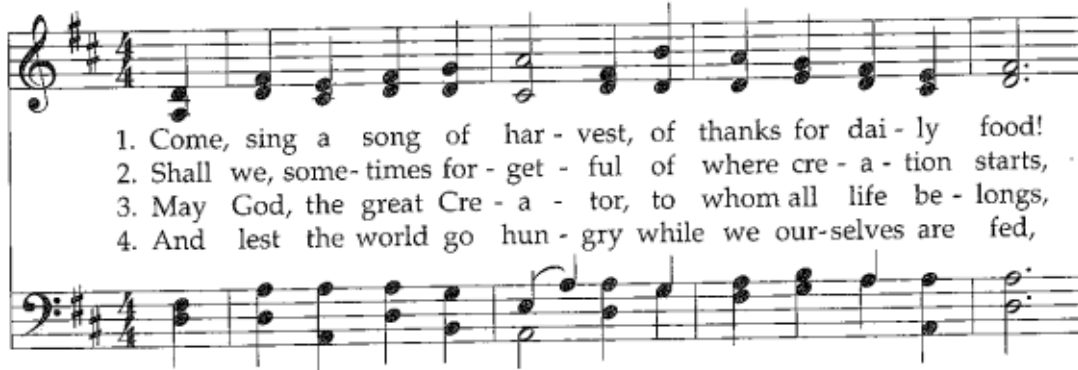
O God, be pres - ent with us, and make your will known.
 Our God, be ev - er with us, in glad - ness and strife.
 Your name be praised for - ev - er, O God, make us free!

WORDS: *Nederlandsche Gedenckclanck*, 1626; tr. Theodore Baker, 1894;
 adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981
 MUSIC: Dutch melody (16th century); arr. Edward Kremser, 1877

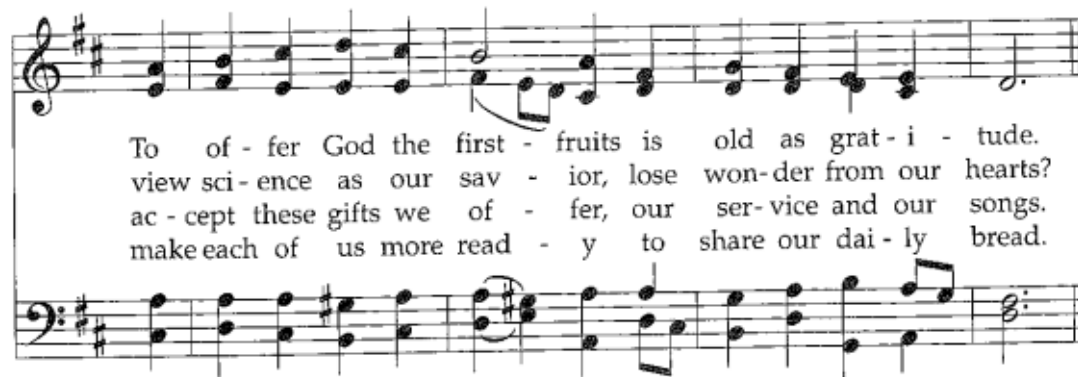
KREMSER
 arr.

Come, Sing a Song of Harvest

719



1. Come, sing a song of har - vest, of thanks for dai - ly food!
2. Shall we, some-times for - get - ful of where cre - a - tion starts,
3. May God, the great Cre - a - tor, to whom all life be - longs,
4. And lest the world go hun - gry while we our-selves are fed,



To of - fer God the first - fruits is old as grat - i - tude.
view sci - ence as our sav - ior, lose won - der from our hearts?
ac - cept these gifts we of - fer, our ser - vice and our songs.
make each of us more read - y to share our dai - ly bread.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1976
MUSIC: Melchior Vulpius, 1609

CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN
76.76

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I Thank You, Jesus

1. I thank you, Je-sus, thank you, Je-sus,
 2. You've been my fa-ther, been my moth-er,

(Thank you, Je-sus,) (thank you, Je-sus,)
 (Been my fa-ther,) (been my moth-er,)

thank you, Je-sus, my Sav-ior God, for you brought me, yes, you
 been my sis-ter, my broth-er, too, for you brought me, yes, you

brought me from a might-y, a might-y long way, (a might-y long
 brought me from a might-y, a might-y long way, (a might-y long

I thank you, Je-sus, thank you, Je-sus,
 You've been my fa-ther, been my moth-er,

way.) (Thank you, Je-sus,) (thank you, Je-sus,)
 way.) (Been my fa-ther,) (been my moth-er,)

WORDS: Kenneth Morris, 1948
 MUSIC: Kenneth Morris, 1948; adapt. and arr. Joyce F. Johnson, 1992, alt.

I THANK YOU
 arr.

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 arr. © 1992 The Pilgrim Press

thank you, Je-sus, my Sav-ior God, for you brought me, yes, you
 been my sis-ter, my broth-er, too, for you brought me, yes, you

brought me from a might-y, a might-y long way. (a might-y long way.)
 brought me from a might-y, a might-y long way. (a might-y long way.)

Be Still, My Soul

1. Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;
 2. Be still, my soul: for God will un - der - take
 3. Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain.
 to guide the fu - ture sure - ly as the past.
 when we shall dwell with God for - ev - er more,

Trust in your God, your sav - ior and your guide,
 Your hope, your con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

who through all chang - es faith - ful will re - main.
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

WORDS: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; tr. Jane Borthwick, 1855, alt.
 MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. *The Hymnal*, 1933

FINLANDIA
 11 10.11 10.11 10

Arr. © 1933, renewed 1961, Presbyterian Board of Christian Education

Be still, my soul: your best, your heaven - ly friend
 Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
 Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,

through thorn - y ways leads to a peace - ful end.
 the voice that calmed them in this world be - low.
 all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

