



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



February 25, 2024

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**

'If You Will Trust in God to Guide You'

No. 565

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

People: Lent calls us to journey - to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.

Leader: Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

People: Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

Leader: Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

People: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.

Leader: Lent calls us to journey with God.

People: Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

OPENING PRAYER²

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE³**

Lord, You know how easy it is for us to sit here, tethered to our darkness and fear. We get bound up by chains of mistrust. We dare not to hope, for so many times before we have been disappointed. So we sit here and wonder where you are. We are not unlike the disciples who wondered also, who feared. Lord, come to us in our darkness. Flood us with your powerful light of love and mercy. Help open our eyes to the good news of your eternal glory. Give to us visions of the place in which love and hope will reign. Forgive our stubborn resistance to your mercy and your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

***WORDS OF GRACE¹**

Friends, God does indeed hear our prayers - big and small - and God always seeks a deeper relationship with each one of us. Let us lean into that truth and pray for that deeper relationship to be felt in both our hearts, and in our very spirit. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

'Great Is Thy Faithfulness' (refrain only)

No. 86

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco

***HYMN OF PREPARATION**

'Spirit of the Living God'

No. 259

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21:1-7

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Look! God's dwelling is here with humankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his peoples. God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more. There will be no mourning, crying, or pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look! I'm making all things new." He also said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 Then he said to me, "All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring. 7 Those who emerge victorious will inherit these things. I will be their God, and they will be my sons and daughters.

SERMON

Pastor Jeff 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

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.

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY 'Order My Steps' (Burleigh/Rouse)

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE 'Jesu, Jesu' (Refrain and vs. 5) No. 600

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 'All My Hope on God Is Founded' No. 88

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE 'Spanish Trumpet Joy' (de Peraza/Harris)

Participating In Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Alex Green, Music Director

Susannah Thornton, Soloist

Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹Shuman, Thom. "Lenten Call to Worship: A Call to Journey." *Lenten Call to Worship: A Call to Journey*, Lectionary Liturgies, re-worship.blogspot.com/2015/02/lenen-call-to-worship-call-to-journey.html. Accessed 14 Feb. 2024.

²Hamilton, Roddy. "Prayer: In Your Name." *Prayer: In Your Name*, Listening to the Stones, re-worship.blogspot.com/2015/09/prayer-in-your-name.html. Accessed 14 Feb. 2024.

³Sobania-Johnson, Rev. Christine. "Confession: Purposeful Prayers." *Confession: Purposeful Prayers*, Fresh Squeezed Liturgy, re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/06/confession-purposeful-prayers.html. Accessed 14 Feb. 2024.





Lent. A journey to the cross and beyond

Purple is the color for Lent. The color is associated with royalty and reminds us of the upside down world of Jesus who was mocked with a crown of thorns and a purple robe as he was tried for insurrection in the Roman Court. The sign at the cross named him the King of the Jews. His sentence was crucifixion. But we know that was not the end of the story. Followers of Jesus, the Christ, acknowledge him as Lord of God's New Kingdom to be established with Christ as the head of the church. Now we understand the purple to signify penitence and preparation as we make the journey with Jesus. The side panels depict the world ready to birth new beauty as it turns to Spring for us in this hemisphere once again.

If You Will Trust in God to Guide You 565

1. If you will trust in God to guide you, and hope in God through
 2. God will embrace your pain and weep-ing, your help-less an-ger
 3. Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un-swerv-ing; so do your own part

all your ways, God will give strength, what-e'er be-tide you,
 and dis-tress. If you are in God's care and keep-ing,
 faith-ful-ly, and trust God's word; though un-de-serv-ing,

and bear you through the e-vil days. Who trusts in God's un-
 in sor-row will God love you less? For Christ, who took for
 you'll find God's pro-mise true to be. God nev-er will for-

chang-ing love builds on the rock that will not move.
 you a cross, will bring you safe through ev-ery loss.
 sake in need the soul that trusts in God in-deed.

WORDS: Georg Neumark, 1657; tr. st. 1, 3, Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.; WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT
 st. 2 tr. Jaroslav Vajda, alt. 98.98.88
 MUSIC: Georg Neumark, 1657

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

86

1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, there is no shad-ow of
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon and stars in their
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thy own dear pres-ence to

turn- ing with thee; thou chang- est not, thy com- pas- sions, they fail not;
 cours- es a - bove, join with all na- ture in man - i - fold wit- ness
 cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

Refrain

as thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be. Great is thy faith-ful-ness!
 to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love.
 bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have

need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed—Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923
 MUSIC: William M. Runyan, 1923

FAITHFULNESS
 11 10.11 10 w. refrain

© 1923, renewed 1951, Hope Publishing Co.

Spirit of the Living God

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

The first system of music consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a 4/4 time signature, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me." The piano accompaniment is in the same key and time, starting with a bass clef. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady accompaniment.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

The second system of music is identical to the first, featuring the same vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me."

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

The third system of music features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a 4/4 time signature, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me." The piano accompaniment is in the same key and time, starting with a bass clef. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady accompaniment.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

The fourth system of music is identical to the first, featuring the same vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me."

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

LIVING GOD
75.75.875

Refrain (Unison)

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2. Neigh - bors are rich and poor, var - ied in col - or and
 3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
 4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we are
 5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

1. feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 2. race, neigh - bors are near and far a - way.
 3. love; all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
 4. slaves, this is the way we should live with you.
 5. feet, this is the way we should live with you.

WORDS: Tom Colvin, 1969
 MUSIC: Ghana folk song; arr. Tom Colvin, 1969; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1988

CHEREPONI
 arr. w. refrain

All My Hope on God Is Founded 88

1. All my hope on God is found-ed, who does still my
 2. Hu - man pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
 3. But in ev - ery time and sea - son, out of love's a -

trust re - new. Safe through change and chance God guides me,
 tray our trust; though with care and toil we build them,
 bun - dant store, God sus - tains the whole cre - a - tion

ev - er faith - ful, ev - er true. God un - known,
 tower and tem - ple fall to dust. But God's power,
 fount of life for ev - er - more. We who share

God a - lone, seeks to claim my heart as home.
 hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tower.
 earth and air count on God's un - fail - ing care.

WORDS: Joachim Neander, 1680, alt.; st. 3 tr. Fred Pratt Green, 1986
 MUSIC: Joachim Neander, 1680 (from chorale *Unser Herrscher*)

NEANDER
 87.87.67