**+ FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**An Open and affirming congregation of the**

**United Church of Christ, Saugus, Massachusetts**

**Service of Worship & Communion, 10 a.m.**

**4th Sunday after Pentecost, July 2 2017**

**\*Indicates for those who are able to, please stand.**

**Bold print indicates congregational response.**

**NCH = New Century Hymnal (black cover)**

**HOP = Spiral bound cover**

*Scripture reader is Terri Leander.*

*Greeter & Usher is Terri Leander.*

*Deacon is Terri Leander.*

PRELUDE   Mae Stroshane

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Martha Leahy

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE HOP 119

*“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”*

CALL TO WORSHIP (“God, we’re here!”):

L: God says, “I know the plans I have for you.”
**P: God desires us to live peacefully and prosper.**

L: God says, “I will give you hope and a future.”
**P: God lifts our gaze and helps us see beyond boundaries.**L: God says, “Call upon me and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”
**P: God gathers us from near and far, uniting us in one, true, spiritual home.
All: God says, “You will find me if you seek me with all your heart.”**

**\*OPENING HYMN: “His Eye is On the Sparrow” HOP15**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (“God, we’re sorry”): **Loving God, we confess that we have strayed into situations and places we regret. All along, we have heard your wisdom and advice, but we chose to ignore it. Forgive us. Help us learn better how to listen for your words of guidance, available to us in ancient texts, in prayer and in wise companions on The Way. Amen.**

**CHORAL RESPONSE: “Thy Word” HOP 92**

***Th*y *word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. 2x***

**\***ASSURANCE OF PARDON (“God forgives us”), in unison:

**Prophets, priests and pastors may preach to us of your unconditional love and forgiveness. But it is only through personally recognizing and accepting these gifts, that we truly see and feel the effects of your amazing grace. Amen.**

\*GLORY TO GOD “Holy, Holy, Holy” NCH #277

***Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty! Early in the morning we praise your majesty./ Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty/ God in three persons/ blessed Trinity!***

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 29:1-2,4-14 (SP557,LP1221)

(SP=Small print Bible; LP=Large print Bible)

MESSAGE: “Live Long and Prosper” Rev. Martha Leahy

PRAYER INTRO: “Sanctuary” HOP 135

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE: “Take My Life & Let it Be” HOP 129

OFFERTORY INVITATION (“God, we give back”), in unison:

**God offered peace and prosperity to our ancestors and God delivered. We work to create the same here in our church and beyond. Let’s deliver these abundant gifts to the world through our own generous donations. Amen.**

*(Donations to our Deacons Fund can be made in the envelopes provided. These support community members in need.)*

**OFFERTORY: “Lady Liberty” by Mae Stroshane**

\*DOXOLOGY: NCH #778

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God all creatures here below;***

***Praise God for all that love has done.***

***Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.***

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OUR GIFTS, PLEDGES, DEACONS FUND & FOOD PANTRY OFFERINGS (“God bless our gifts”), in unison: **Holy God, throughout time you have given guidance, support and love to a people who often rejected you. Bless the gifts we bring to your altar today, so we can offer the same guidance, support and love to all people everywhere. Amen.**

**\*COMMUNION HYMN: “We See Christ” (see insert)**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (see insert)

**\*CLOSING HYMN: “This Land is Your Land” (insert)**

\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING (“God, we will try”), in unison: **God of Peace, we will try to be your agents of change in the world, living as examples of the riches to be gained in a life of service and dedication to you. Amen.**

BENEDICTION (“God, please bless us”):

L: God says, “I know the plans I have for you.”
**P: God desires us to live peacefully and prosper.**

L: God says, “I will give you hope and a future.”
**P: God lifts our gaze and helps us see beyond boundaries.**L: God says, “Call upon me and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”
**P: God gathers us from near and far, uniting us in one, true, spiritual home.
All: God says, “You will find me if you seek me with all your heart.”**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION: “This Little Light” NCH 524**

***This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine (3x)***

***Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

***Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine (3x)***

***Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.***

POSTLUDE Mae Stroshane



**https:daniellovett.com**

**“Live Long and Prosper”**

**2nd Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 2, 2017**

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 **“WE SEE CHRIST”** by Joel Raney

**Mae:** When we look at the needy**,**

**All: We see Christ**

**Mae:** When we look at the hopeless

**All: We see Christ**

**Mae:** When we serve the thirsty and hungry

When we love the outcast and lonely

When we serve a world in need

**All: We see Christ.**

**Mae:** When we see the lost and homeless

**All: We see Christ.**

**Mae:** When we comfort the grieving.

**All: We see Christ**

**Mae:**When we give with hearts that are open

When we help the tired and broken

When we serve a world in need

**All: We see Christ.**

**“LADY LIBERTY”**  by Mae Stroshane

**She stands in the harbor
Her torch burning bright**

**Guiding all who come to her**

**Day and night**

**For everyone is welcome here**

**From every land and shore**

**Give me your tired,**

**Your hungry and your poor.**

**REFRAIN: For this is your home now**

**The land of the free**

**Lay your burdens down**

**At the feet of Lady Liberty.**

**From Syria to Africa**

**From Germany to France**

**You’ve come to America**

**To find a second chance**

**Ready to make our country strong**

**You’ll live no more in fear**

**Ready to sing our freedom song**

**For you are welcome here.**



**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

THE INVITATION All are welcome at Christ’s table.

THE COVENANT OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in SAUGUS UCC in simplified language (unison):

**We gather together at church to learn about God through the stories of the Bible, knowing that these stories are not the end, but the beginning, because we believe that “God is still speaking.”**

**We believe our purpose is to worship God; to tell the story of Jesus; to study Christian history so we know where we have been and where we are going; to comfort the poor and the outcast; to work for peace; and to honor diversity as God’s own creation.**

** We depend upon the Holy Spirit to teach us and guide us so that we can transform the world into God’s Kingdom here on Earth, and we look forward to the day when we will meet our loving God in Heaven. Amen.**

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

THE CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

THE SHARING OF THE LORD’S SUPPER (Please come forward in silence to receive the Bread of Life and dip it into the Cup of Blessing. Then you may eat, return to your seat and sit in silent prayer.)

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison): **We thank you, O God of Abundance, for granting us these simple gifts of bread and cup, which are, for us, the meal of your covenant community. As we are fed here today - in body, mind and spirit - may we go out into the world and invite others to this table. Amen.**

### **A Letter to the Exiles**

Jeremiah 29:1-2, 4-14

**29**This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. **2** …It said:

**4**This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **5**“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. **6**Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease.**7**Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”**8**Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. **9**They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the Lord.

**10**This is what the Lord says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place.**11**For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **12**Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. **13**You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. **14**I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

**This Land Is Your Land**

**By** [**Woody Guthrie**](https://www.google.com/search?q=Woody+Guthrie&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAONgVuLQz9U3sDA2yAMA9ARZ7wwAAAA&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj3xr-L9tvUAhVEMj4KHWh2BMQQMQgrMAA)

***Refrain:***

**This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York Island
From the Redwood Forest, to the Gulf stream waters
This land was made for you and me**

**As I went walking that ribbon of highway
And saw above me that endless skyway
I saw below me the golden valley
This land was made for you and me**

***Refrain***

**I roamed and rambled and followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts
And all around me, a voice was sounding
This land was made for you and me**

***Refrain***