

The First Congregational Church in Worcester
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2022

You are invited to a time of quiet preparation during the Prelude

Prelude

God So Loved the World ~ arr. Sewell

Ringing of the Chimes

Call to Worship

As our Easter journey continues, we gather to worship the one who forever guides us to the springs of life.

Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor and power be to our God.

We gather as different people, from different places, embodying different backgrounds and understandings, yet we remain united in the love of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor and power be to our God.

We gather once more to shout "Alleluia" and rejoice in the wonders of the Holy One who makes us one.

Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor and power be to our God.

Invocation and 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.

*Hymn of Adoration - #12

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

From all who dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise; Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the Redeemer's Name be sung, through every land by every tongue.

O praise Him, O Praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends Thy Word. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore, till suns rise and set no more.

O praise Him, O Praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sung Responsive Psalm

Psalm 23

SHEPHERD ME, O GOD

Psalm 23, adapt. M.H.

Marty Haugen

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -
yond my fears, from death in-to life.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Copyright © 1986 by GIA Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Message for the Young and Young at Heart

Sharing of Announcements, Celebrations and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

He is Lord

He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead, and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

New Testament Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

Giving of Our Offerings

Offertory

O, How I Love Jesus ~ arr. Walters

*Doxology

Laast Uns Erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the fortification of this beloved community. Let these gifts do justice in the world. Let them be a sign of our belief in the God who saves, heals, and welcomes into the fold. Let these gifts, and the works of our hands and feet, be a blessing to all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn - #80

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Gospel Reading

John 10:22-30

Meditation

Welcomed into the Flock

Rev. Josh Fitterling

*Sending Hymn - #327

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

We are Thine, do Thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor, early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Hymn to Joy

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.

He, who on the cross a victim, for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.

Chimes

Postlude

Easter Chant ~ Young



**Please stand in body, or in spirit.*

We are glad you joined us today! May you have a blessed day!

All are welcome to join us for Coffee Hour immediately following our worship service in the Parlor (through the sanctuary doors to the right). Not sure where to go? Just ask. Any member would be delighted to help you!

The flowers today are given from Hampton Bagdasarian in honor of all the ladies of the church, past and present.

Prayer Requests

Dawn and Matt Ahaesy request prayers for Dawn's dad, Francis Lajoie. We would like to keep Hampton Bagdasarian in our prayers and he also requests prayers for June Kemp; Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda; Judy Mitchell requests prayers for her granddaughter, Ellanora; Susan Anderson requests prayers for her brother, Danny Waskevich and her friend, Roger Waite. The Deacons request prayers for Betty Dalbeck, Dr. Richard Hunter, Dolores Trzcinski, Jeanne Fassett, Paul Scherdell, Melanie Anderson and Joyce & Armand Thienel.

If you would like to add a prayer concern or update our list, please email the church office at office@fcc-worcester.org. Thank you for praying with us!

Announcements

WALK for the Homeless – Sunday, May 15th. As of last Sunday, \$368 has already been pledged! Let's keep that total climbing!

This year, Pastor Josh and Mason will be participating in the *WALK for the Homeless* at Elm Park on behalf of First Church! This annual fundraising effort seeks to raise \$125,000 to support homeless individuals and families throughout our local and surrounding communities. Our Mission Committee is sponsoring Pastor Josh and Mason with \$100 from our church's mission budget. If you would also like to contribute, you can:

1. Make a secure donation online at <https://give.classy.org/fccworcester>
2. Give cash or check, made out to "2022 WALK for the Homeless", to Pastor Josh or Mason.

Would you like to walk too? You can also register to walk at the link above and raise funds too!

Church Office Hours

Shelly will be in the office Tuesday – Thursday from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Connecting with Pastor Josh – If you wish to schedule a time to meet/chat with Pastor Josh, reach out to him directly by email at pastor@fcc-worcester.org or by cell phone at

610-750-2688. Pastor Josh generally holds Friday and Saturday as days' off for rest and renewal. However, if a pastoral emergency arises, he can always be reached on his cell.

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed – Would you be able to provide the snacks and goodies for one of our after worship coffee hour times? We would love to have you help us provide hospitality. Sign-up any Sunday after worship in the Parlor. Thank you for your consideration!

Bottle and Can Drive- Saturday, May 14th 9:00am-12:00pm

The BSA Pack 37 and BSA Troop 37, and the Knights of Columbus 12691 at Christ the King Parish, will be collecting your recyclable cans and bottles the proceeds will benefit the Ukrainian Refugees. The collection will take place in the parking lot of the Tatnuck Post American Legion on 570 Mill Street, Worcester, MA

Carpet Fund Collection

Our new carpeting fund continues to grow! Please continue to add whatever you can spare to the Teddy Bear jar in the narthex. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Weekly Calendar

Today

10:00am FCC Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00am Ghanian Resurrection Ministries (upper level)

Monday

7:00pm AA Meeting (Hall)

Tuesday

10:00am Fellowship (Parlor)
6:30pm AA Meeting (Hall)

Thursday

6:45pm AA Meeting (Hall)

Saturday

10:00am New Hope SDA (Sanctuary & Parlor)
12:00pm Church of God (Hall)
9:00pm Spirit Life Chapel

Sunday

10:00am FCC Worship (Sanctuary)
11:00am Ghanian Resurrection Ministries (upper level)
2022 WALK for the Homeless (Elm Park)

The First Congregational Church in Worcester
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



1070 Pleasant Street
Worcester MA 01602
508-752-4635

www.fcc-worcester.org



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

Rev. Joshua M. Fitterling, Pastor
pastor@fcc-worcester.org

Scott M. Yonker, Minister of Music
music@fcc-worcester.org

Shelly Hoyle, Administrative Assistant
office@fcc-worcester.org

Doug Perkins, Sexton