

The First Congregational Church in Worcester

Sunday, June 15, 2025

10:00A.M.

Trinity Sunday

The service of worship begins with the music of the prelude. Through its power and brilliance, may you feel the majesty and glory of God; in its quietness, God's peace.

Prelude

Gavotte ~ Camidge

Ring of the Chimes

***Call to Worship**

God finds delight in humanity, and in each of us.

Let us rejoice before the majesty of our Creator.

God of grace and glory, who made all things,

How majestic is your name in all the earth!

In Christ, we are called to endure and to hope.

Let us give thanks for a faith that brings peace.

God of grace and glory, Savior of your people,

How precious to us is your gift of Jesus Christ!

The Holy Spirit is present to guide and direct us,

Let us listen that we may hear and do what is true.

God of grace and glory, ever present with us,

How reassuring is the love with which you surround us!

***Opening Hymn #251**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.

Cherubim and seraphim, falling down before thee, who was and is and evermore shall be.

Holy, Holy, Holy! though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,

Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty! God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

***Invocation**

Amazing God, revealed to us in more ways than we can count, yet binding in unity all that was and is and yet shall be, we worship you. Source of mountains and seas, giver of light and darkness, we marvel at the work of your hands. Reconciler and Redeemer, we are awed by the forgiving love that draws us to you and empowers us to care for one another. Spirit of truth, whose guidance is available to us every day, we rejoice in your transforming presence. Triune God, bless, we pray, this gathering of your disciples. Amen.

Call to Transformation

Who has truly listened for the voice of God? Who among us is attentive to the heights and depths in which we are called to live? Who are we that God cares for us? Let us draw near in humility and faith, confessing the distractions that separate us from the mind of God.

Prayer of Transformation

God of Wisdom, our choices have denied you. We drink from the shallow waters of instant gratification when you offer springs of living water from the depths of your love. We pursue our own fame and glory, which crumble into dust when we view the sacrifice and service that build true character. O God, we confess that we have not put first things first. We have not lived up to the crown of glory and honor you offer us. Recall us to awe and wonder and guide us in the ways of truth. Amen.

Prayer of Grace

The glory of God is revealed anew to us in the birth of children. We are reborn when we pause to marvel at the gift of life, when we look beyond ourselves to gaze at the stars. Before the vast mystery of time and space, we are amazed that God cares for us, forgives us, and entrusts to us the stewardship of the earth. God's love is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Praise God!

Sharing of Announcements, Celebrations and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

St. Agnes

O hope of ev'ry contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
To those who fall how kind thou art. How good to those who seek. Amen

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

New Testament Reading

Romans 5:1-5

Gospel Reading

John 16:12-15

Sermon

"Let's Dance"

Rev. Linda Michel

***Hymn Insert**

Open My Eyes

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key, that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see;
open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, ev'rything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see;
open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see;
open my mouth, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Invitation to Generosity

Our God, who is mindful of us and our needs, sends us into the world to attend to the needs of others. Where there is enmity or suffering or spiritual poverty, we may become channels through which the Holy Spirit acts. When we give our earnings, we extend our influence beyond our own reach. Let us give thankfully and generously.

Offertory

Contemplation ~ Clarke

***Doxology**

Beecher

**Blest by Thee with gifts and graces, may we heed Thy church's call;
Thou hast brought us, and no longer can we claim to be our own;
Ever free and ever stronger, we shall serve Thee, Lord alone.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Giving God, we are grateful for wisdom, for beauty, for the ways in which we see your glory in all creation. Most of all, we thank you for caring for us and for entrusting to us the ministry of caring for the earth and for one another. May these offerings extend the faith and honor you: Creator, Savior, and Sustainer. Amen.

***Sending Hymn Insert**

My Hope is Built

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand: all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand: all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood, support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand: all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found:
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand: all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

***Commission & Blessing**

All who believe in Jesus Christ are commissioned.

We are sent out to live and work as Jesus did.

We are sons and daughters of God.

We are heirs with Christ of all God has made.

The Holy Spirit has come to inspire and equip us.

We are empowered for greater works in Jesus' name.

We will praise our God while we have being.

We will testify to the good news of God's love.

The power of the first Pentecost is ours to claim.

The Holy Spirit offers us new ability to communicate.

We will heed the Spirit's promptings this week.

We will call on God's name day by day.

Amen. Amen.

***Benediction Response**

Bunessan

Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, King of my heart;

Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me, never to part.

Ringling of the Chimes

***Postlude**

Trumpet Voluntary ~ Clarke

*** - Please stand in body or spirit**

All are welcome to join us at Coffee Hour in the parlor immediately following the service.

Let us extend a warm welcome to **Rev. Linda Michel**, who is officiating today.

