

First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS



Our Purpose Statement

It is our purpose to joyfully celebrate Christ's presence and God's grace in our lives; to respect one another in love, actively seeking and embracing those who wish to grow with us in faith, hope and love; to follow the example of Jesus, as we minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the community.

Through service we flourish.



The First Congregational Church in Worcester

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023

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

Prelude

Meditation from Thais ~ arr. Parks

Ringling of the Chimes

Call to Worship

We gather to respond to the call of God's love,

Blessed that this good news has been shared with us.

May we be compassionate enough to share this divine presence with others.

For love, when shared, is not divided but multiplied.

Love, given away, is not diminished but expanded.

May our gathering bless and welcome those near and far to know the love of this divine presence.

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

*Hymn of Adoration ~ *Insert*

O God, Our Creator, You Work Every Day

O God our Creator, you work every day:
A potter, you form us — your people — like clay.
A shepherd, you guide us and seek out the lost.
A parent, you love us, not counting the cost.

Christ Jesus, how rough were your hard-working hands!
You labored among us; our God understands!
Bless workers who struggle, their families to feed;
Bless those who face hardship, oppression, or greed.

Lord, some live among us who need constant care,
Whose work is to make us more humbly aware.
They teach us the best of your lessons, by far:
It's not what we do, Lord, you love who we are!

We're baptized! Your Spirit gives new work to do,
That we, through our serving, may glorify you.
Each person's vocation, each calling, has worth
As you send us out to bring Christ's love on earth.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 15

O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from their heart;
who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

in whose eyes the wicked are despised but who honor those who fear the Lord; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Message for the Young and Young at Heart

Sharing of Announcements, Celebrations and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

Sursum Corda

Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
help me to see your purpose and your will
where I have failed, what I have done amiss;
held in forgiving love, let me be still.

Old Testament Reading

Micah 6:1-8

Giving of our Offerings

Offertory

Andante Sostenuto ~ Lau

*Doxology

Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

Just God, we share our humble offering in hope and trust that, through these gifts, your kingdom comes and your will is done. Amen.

*Hymn ~ *Insert*

Blest Are They

Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled
Rejoice, and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, the lowly ones: they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
Rejoice, and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God!
Rejoice, and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are they, who seek peace; they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs.
Rejoice, and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Blest are you, who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom of God; shine for all to see.
Rejoice, and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

Meditation

Blessed

Rev. Josh Fitterling

*Sending Hymn ~ *Insert*

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name, baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us share your children's liberty:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society:
With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity:

With the Spirit's gifts empow'r us for the work of ministry.

*Benediction & Benediction Response

Sicilian Mariners

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O direct us and protect us, traveling through this wilderness.

*Postlude

Tambourine Toccata ~ Young

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

All are welcome to attend Coffee Hour immediately following our worship service in the Parlor. Not sure where to go? Just ask. Any one of us would be delighted to help you!

Want to get more connected with the happenings at First Church? Simply fill out one of our "Welcome Home!" cards located in the pew back in front of you and place it in the offering this morning.

**Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex as well as hearing assistance devices for those who may need them.*

We are glad you joined us today.

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Doug Perkins, Sexton

Prayer Requests

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 and friend Marie Samuelson whom is very ill; Judy Mitchell requests prayers for her granddaughter, Ellanora; Sue & Norman Anderson request prayers for their daughter, Melanie Anderson, Sue's brother, Danny Waskevich and their friend, Roger Waite. Dawn & Matt Ahaesy request prayers for Dawn's dad, Francis Lajoie and Gina Ahaesy. The Deacons request prayers for Betty Dalbeck, Dolores Trzcinski, Jeanne Fassett, Paul Scherdell, and Joyce & Armand Thienel. Erika Vecsey requests prayers as she continues to recover from surgery. Our fervent prayers are with Normairis Rivera's son, Joey as he undergoes a kidney transplant. Prayers for Bob Lingner's son, Richard who has advanced cancer.

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

Carty Cupboard Food Pantry Collection/ Deacon's Fund Collection ~February 5, 2023 - On the first Sunday of every month, donations of non-perishable, shelf-stable items are collected for the Carty Cupboard in Worcester. Funds are also collected monthly to provide one-time, emergency assistance to a neighbor in need.

Fellowship ~ Meet in the Parlor at 10am on most Tuesdays. All are welcome to join.

Mark your calendar! ~ The Annual Meeting for our congregation will take place at the end of worship on February 19. Please plan to join us! Snow date will be on February 26.

Open Sanctuary ~ Wednesdays from 2 to 3 ~ Pastor Josh will be in the Sanctuary, a moment each week for folks to spend time in the peace of our sanctuary space to sit, pray, listen, and ponder. Music will be playing and Pastor Josh will be available for anyone who wishes to have a conversation.

Offering Envelopes Now Available for Pick-Up or we can mail them if needed! Offering Envelopes for 2023 are now available for pick-up! They will be in the church narthex on Sunday mornings or can be picked up at the church office during regular office hours (Tuesday - Thursday from 9am to 1pm). If you would like envelopes but do not see a number assigned to you, simply let Shelly in the office know and we will provide them for you.

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed ~ We would love to have you help us provide hospitality. Sign-up any Sunday after worship in the Parlor. Thank you!

Carpet Fund Collection

Our new carpeting fund is growing! Please continue to add whatever you can spare to the Teddy Bear jar in the narthex. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Weekly Calendar

Today

10:00am	FCC Worship (Sanctuary)
10:00am	Family Christian Church of God (Hall)
11:00am	Ghanian Resurrection Ministries (Upper level)
6:45pm	AA Meeting (Hall)

Monday

7:00pm	AA Meeting (Hall)
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Tuesday

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

Thursday

6:45pm	AA Meeting (Parlor)
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Friday

9:00pm	Spirit Life Chapel (Hall)
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Saturday

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

Sunday

10:00am	FCC Worship (Sanctuary)
10:00am	Family Christian Church of God (Hall)
11:00am	Ghanian Resurrection Ministries (Upper level)
11:30am	Confirmation Class (Conference Room)
6:45pm	AA Meeting (Hall)