

First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

May 19, 2024



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

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

Welcome

Rev. Jack Jones

Prelude

Little Rondo ~ Blake

Ringling of the Chimes

Call to Worship

Pastor: God has done great things for us!

***Congregation:* We declare God's mighty works with all we have!**

Pastor: In a world where there is deceit and unkindness,

***Congregation:* We declare God's mighty works with all we have!**

Pastor: We praise the One who has kept us safe and provided for us.

***Congregation:* We worship the One who has blessed us with holy wisdom!**

Pastor: Let us worship God together!

***Congregation:* Come, Holy Spirit!**

Invocation

(Everyone) Jesus, our sibling and friend, we thank you for your example, which guides us as we share the good news of God's love with a hurting world. Thank you for protecting us, teaching us, and equipping us to partner with you to work for love and justice. Help us share the joy we've found in our relationship with you. Empower us with the Holy Spirit, that we might testify to God's goodness. Amen.

Prayer of Transformation

(Everyone) Gracious God, Jesus prayed that his disciples would be protected from deceit.

Sometimes, it's not easy to be bold in sharing how God's love has impacted our lives. We ask forgiveness for the times we have not been strong enough in sharing our truth, for fear of how others would respond. Help us find strength in Your promises to us. Help us share our joy with abundance. Amen.

Prayer of Grace

Pastor: Friends, take comfort. None of Jesus' disciples found this work to be easy, and sometimes they faltered. We aren't expected to be perfect either. We are sanctified in God's truth. Christ prays for us and guides our words and actions. We always have opportunities to grow in our discipleship, as long as we trust in Christ to lead us.

***Congregation:* By the grace of God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

***Hymn of Adoration ~ Insert** *(please stand)*

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin, he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.

To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

Epistle Lesson

Acts 2:1-21

Gospel Lesson

John 15:26-27

Sermon

"Come Spirit Come"

Rev. Jack Jones

***Hymn ~ #234** (*please stand*)

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

Sharing Celebrations and Concerns for Community Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Moment of Silence for Personal Prayer

Lord's Prayer (*Everyone*)

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 (*everyone*)

St. Agnes

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

Invitation to Generosity

Just as everything given to Jesus comes from God, everything given to us comes from Jesus, the foremost human example for our faith. May we respond to that gift with joy, mindful of the ways God works in this church, into community, and in this world.

Giving of Our Offerings

Offertory

My Jesus, I Love Thee ~ arr. Walters

*Doxology (everyone & please stand)

Beecher

Blest by Thee with gifts and graces, may we heed Thy church's call;
Gladly in all times and places give to Thee who giv'est all.
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

Loving God, we remember that one of Christ's most important commandments is loving one another. With these gifts, help us show this love in our words and actions, caring for the vulnerable and offering hope in times of despair. Amen.

*Sending Forth Hymn ~ Insert (please stand)

Spirit of Gentleness

REFRAIN: Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep, then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep; and over the eons you called to each thing:

""Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.""

REFRAIN

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand, and you goaded your people with a law and
a land; and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

REFRAIN

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill, then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still; and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

REFRAIN

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes. From the bondage of sorrow
all the captives dream dreams; our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.

With bold new decisions your people arise.

REFRAIN

***Benediction**

Christ sends you out to proclaim God's good news! God has done great work in you. Now go and let God work through you! Amen!

***Benediction Response** *(remain standing)*

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.**

Chimes

Postlude

Go Forth in Faith ~ Ritter

****Please stand in body, or in spirit.
Bold Print ~ Congregation Reads Aloud***

Thank you for joining us today! 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 basket this morning.

Prayer Requests

Please continue to hold Pastor Jack in your thoughts and prayers as he works through his health issues. We would like to keep Hampton Bagdasarian in our prayers as he is having trouble with one of his eyes; Connie MacInnes requests prayers for her niece Linda and friend Marie Samuelson who 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 Gina Ahaesy; The Deacons request prayers for Dolores Trzcinski, Jeanne Fassett, Paul Scherdell, and Joyce & Armand Thienel. Our prayers are also with Normairis Rivera's son, Joey. Kristin Olson requests prayers for Mitch Bourque. Prayers also continue for Erika Vecsey. Please keep Rev. Natalie Maynard in your prayers as she is now in hospice.

If you would like to add a prayer concern or update our list, please email the church office at office@fcc-worcester.org or call the office at 508-752-4635.

Announcements

Fellowship ~ Join us in the parlor at 10:00 AM on Wednesday for a 'mystery day'.

Hospitality ~ Please join us in the parlor for coffee and goodies every Sunday after worship. If you are able to host a coffee hour, there is a sign-up sheet on the table. If you bring the goodies, we provide the coffee and other beverages, and the paper goods. If you'd like, two or more people can sign up together to make it a little easier. **Our thanks to Sue Anderson for hosting today's Coffee Hour!**

Carpet Fund Collection ~ Our funds continue to grow. Thank you for your continued contributions to the Teddy Bear jar in the narthex or parlor. They are greatly appreciated!

Friendly Messenger ~ If you'd like a copy of our newsletter, you can pick one up from the table in the narthex.

Church Directory ~ Also available in the narthex

The First Congregational Church in Worcester *United Church of Christ*

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Weekly Calendar

Today	10:00am	FCC Worship Service – Pentecost Sunday (<i>Sanctuary</i>)
	10:00am	Family Christian Church of God (<i>Hall</i>)
	11:00am	Ghanian Resurrection Ministries (<i>Upper level</i>)
	1:00pm	Iglesia Pentecostal Casa de Vida (<i>Sanctuary</i>)
	6:45pm	AA Meeting (<i>Hall</i>)
Monday	7:00pm	AA Meeting (<i>Hall</i>)
Tuesday	6:30pm	AA Meeting (<i>Hall</i>)
Wednesday	10:00am	Fellowship ~ ‘Mystery Day’ (<i>Parlor</i>)
	6:30pm	Deacons Meeting (<i>Conference Room</i>)
	7:00pm	Iglesia Pentecostal Casa de Vida (<i>Sanctuary</i>)
Thursday	6:45pm	AA Meeting (<i>Hall</i>)
	2-5 pm	ESL Class ~ Tom Jones, Pastor Jack Jones & Ketelie Altena (<i>Hall</i>)
Friday	7:00pm	Iglesia Pentecostal Casa de Vida (<i>Sanctuary</i>)
Saturday	10:00am	New Hope SDA (<i>Sanctuary & Parlor</i>)
	12:00pm	Church of God (<i>Hall</i>)
Sunday	10:00am	FCC Worship (<i>Sanctuary</i>)
	10:00am	Family Christian Church of God (<i>Hall</i>)
	11:00am	Ghanian Resurrection Ministries (<i>Upper level</i>)
	1:00pm	Iglesia Pentecostal Casa de Vida (<i>Sanctuary</i>)
	6:45pm	AA Meeting (<i>Hall</i>)