

First Congregational Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

February 11, 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

Prelude

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus ~ arr. Berry

Ringling of the Chimes

Call to Worship

Beautiful are the works of God!!

Beautiful also are the skins of Gods people.

Beautiful is the mind of God!

Beautiful also are the hopes of Gods people.

Beautiful is the heart of God!

Beautiful also are the souls of Gods people.

God made the heavens and the Earth!

To God be the glory for the things God has done.

*Hymn of Adoration ~ Insert

O Wondrous Sight! O Vision Fair

O wondrous sight! O vision fair of glory that the church shall share,
which Christ upon the mountain shows, where brighter than the sun he glows!

From age to age the tale declares how with the three disciples there
where Moses and Elijah meet, the Lord holds converse high and sweet.

The law and prophets there have place, two chosen witnesses of grace;
the Father's voice from out the cloud proclaims his only Son aloud.

With shining face and bright array, Christ deigns to manifest that day
what glory shall be theirs above who joy in God with perfect love.

And faithful hearts are raised on high by this great vision's mystery;
for which in joyful strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

Epistle Scripture Lesson

James 1:19-27

Gospel Lesson

Mark 1:14

Sermon

"The Novice"

Rev. Jack Jones

*Hymn ~ Insert

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior, and life more abundant and free!
Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.

Thro' death into life everlasting, He passed, and we follow Him there;
O'er us sin no more hath dominion-- for more than conqu'rors we are!
Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.

His Word shall not fail you--He promised; believe Him, and all will be well:
Then go to a world that is dying, His perfect salvation to tell!
Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.

Sharing Celebrations and Concerns for Community Prayer

Pastoral Prayer
Moment of Silence for Personal 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

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.

Giving of our Offerings

Offertory

Morning Hymn ~ Young

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

Most Holy God, by your grace make of us more than the sum of our parts and make of these offerings more than a sum recorded on a balance sheet. Rather let these offerings be a sign of our loving dedication to do your will of bringing love to a broken world. Amen.

*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

Sending Forth Announcements

*Sending Forth Hymn ~ #Insert

Christ Beside Me

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me, Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me, Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, light of my heart.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me, Christ be on all tongues telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me, in ears that hear me Christ ever be.

Christ be beside me, Christ be before me, Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me, Christ be above me, never to part.

*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.

Chimes

*Postlude

Tocatta in A Minor ~ Sweelinck

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

We are glad you joined 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! Thank you to Lynn Kapino's for this week's treats.

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.

The First Congregational Church in Worcester

United Church of Christ



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Prayer Requests

Please hold Pastor Jack in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers from a recent hospital stay. 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, as she continues her battle with cancer. In addition, we request prayers for Bev Bean as she recovers from a recent fall in her home. Greg Waters and Cindy MacLaurin request prayers for Cindy's mother, who is battling cancer once again.

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

Ash Wednesday ~ Please join us at 7:00 pm on February 14th as we begin the Lenten Season with a meaningful worship service that will include the administering of ashes.

The First Congregational Church in Worcester, Call for the Annual Meeting ~ will be held on **Sunday, February 25, 2024 following worship at 10:45 AM.** The Annual Meeting will be held in person and via Zoom Meeting. For the quorum for Annual meeting, we need 15% of members either in person or on zoom which will be 10 members. Nancy Taylor, Clerk

Fellowship ~ This week, on the 14th, we'll meet in the church parking lot at 10:45, where we'll carpool to the 122 Diner at 1392 Main Street in Holden for a delicious lunch and engage in some interesting conversation. *Of course, our plans are always subject to change especially during this time of year when the weather is so unpredictable.

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, at this time of year, we provide the coffee, tea, hot chocolate, hot cider and paper goods. You don't even have to bake, store-bought is A-OK. It doesn't have to be fancy either. Fruit is always good and so are crackers and cheese. Also, two or more people can sign up together

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/Carty Cupboard/Deacons Fund (Sanctuary)
	10:00am	Family Christian Church of God (Hall)
	11:00am	Ghanian Resurrection Ministries (Upper level)
	11:30am	Trustees Meeting (Conference Room)
	6:45pm	AA Meeting (Hall)
Monday	6:00pm	Neighborhood Watch Meeting (Parlor)
	7:00pm	AA Meeting (Hall)
Tuesday	6:30pm	AA Meeting (Hall)
Wednesday	10:45am	Fellowship Lunch @ 122 Diner in Holden (Parking Lot)
	7:00pm	Lenten Service (Sanctuary)
Thursday	6:45pm	AA Meeting (Hall)
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	Deacons Meeting (Conference Room)
	6:45pm	AA Meeting (Hall)