

First Congregational Church of Georgetown



Our Church Mission Statement:

*“To nurture those in our own faith community and
to act on our faith by reaching out to others.”*

*We are an Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ.*



July 10th, 2024
Wednesday Evening Worship

The Reverend Holly S. Brauner, Pastor

Robert Knapp, Director of Music

Emily Knapp, Organist

WE GATHER

WELCOMING MUSIC

WELCOME!

Rev. Holly

*OPENING HYMN:

Seek Ye First

Karen Lafferty



Seek ye first the king - dom of God
Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;



and God's righ - teous ness, — and all these
seek, and ye shall find; — knock, and the



things shall be add - ed un - to you.
door shall be o - pened un - to you.



Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

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***CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: God moves among us.

MANY: We welcome your presence, Lord, no matter by what means you arrive.

ONE: Reach out your hand and I shall always be with you.

MANY: We reach for you, Jesus, and trust that you are present when we fear or ache.

ONE: Your presence, Oh Lord, calms the seas as it calms our hearts.

MANY: May we rest assured that you are ever present with us, assuaging our worries as you love our anxieties into softness.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you

ALL: And, also with you

OPENING PRAYER:

God of so many names, you command us to come to you, yet we are doubtful of our abilities to make the journey. We are so uncertain of our steps, yet we long to have the faith in ourselves that you have in us. Be with us and embolden us through faith to rise as we are called to walk with you and walk alongside those whose need companionship. Show us how to be children of God who can set skepticism down and take up the mantle of faithful presence.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come. We pray that your good will be done. Let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need. Give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one. Lead us to holy innocence. Beyond the evil of our days — Come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One.

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 10: 25-37

25 An expert on the Law stood up to put Jesus to the test and said, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?” 26 Jesus answered, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” 27 The expert on the Law replied: “You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” 28 Jesus said, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you’ll live.” 29 But the expert on the Law, seeking self-justification, pressed Jesus further: “And just who is my neighbor?” 30 Jesus replied, “There was a traveler going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, who fell prey to robbers. The traveler was beaten, stripped naked, and left half-dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road; the priest saw the traveler lying beside the road but passed by on the other side. 32 Likewise there was a Levite who came the same way; this one, too, saw the afflicted traveler and passed by on the other side. 33 “But a Samaritan, who was taking the same road, also came upon the traveler and filled with compassion, 34 approached the traveler and dressed the wounds, pouring on oil and wine.

Then the Samaritan put the wounded person on a donkey, went straight to an inn and there took care of the injured one. 35 The next day the Samaritan took out two silver pieces and gave them to the innkeeper with the request, ‘Look after this person, and if there is any further expense, I’ll repay you on the way back.’ 36 “Which of these three, in your opinion, was the neighbor to the traveler who fell in with the robbers?” 37 The answer came, “The one who showed compassion.” Jesus replied, “Then go and do the same.”

Finding Ourselves in the Scripture

A Conversation

HYMN

It's Me, It's Me, O Lord

American Spiritual

It's me, it's me O Lord, stand - in' in the need of prayer. It's
me, it's me O Lord, stand - in' in the need of prayer. Fine

Not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's me, O Lord,
Not the preach - er, not the dea - con, but it's me, O Lord,
Not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's me, O Lord,
Not the strang - er, not my neigh - bor, but it's me, O Lord,

stand - in' in the need of prayer. Not my broth - er, not my
stand - in' in the need of prayer. Not the preach - er, not the
stand - in' in the need of prayer. Not my fa - ther, not my
stand - in' in the need of prayer. Not the strang - er, not my

sis - ter, but it's me O Lord, stand - in' in the need of prayer.
dea - con, but it's me O Lord, stand - in' in the need of prayer.
moth - er, but it's me O Lord, stand - in' in the need of prayer.
neigh - bor, but it's me O Lord, stand - in' in the need of prayer.

Pre 1925

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

To paraphrase Mary Oliver,
you do not have to be good to receive the gift of this meal.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves.

We are animals who need care and feeding.
To acknowledge our animal natures and needs
is to acknowledge the dignity and worth of every created thing.
To take this meal is to take our proper place in the rhythms of our Earth,
to acknowledge our right-sized place in the ecosystem.

To eat this food is to acknowledge our belonging
in the great unrolling dance of Creation
from the dawn of the universe until its ending.

Come, then, everyone, and be where you belong.

PRAISE AND THANKS

God, through the wonder of photosynthesis,
You turn sunlight and soil
Into fruit of the vine and grain of the field.

Add yeast for rising, salt for flavor, water for life,
then kneed and bake, and ferment
until these elements become food for body and spirit.

God, you are in all things, and therefore in us.
God, we are in all things, atoms sprung from stardust,
repurposed for a moment in a too-short lifespan,
then repurposed again.
We acknowledge the holiness of this bread and cup,
the holiness of you and us and everything in this meal.

BREAD AND CUP

Now, God, we remember:
On the last night of his life, Jesus went back to the most basic need
All living things share – to eat.

He took a loaf, Brother Bread, and when he had thanked you for it,
He shared it among all those gathered, saying,
Take this and eat. This is my Body, given for you.
Good bread for healing and joy.

Likewise, after supper, he took a cup, Sister Wine,
A symbol of life, and joy, and the wheel of fate.
When he had thanked you for it, he said to his disciples
Take this and drink: this cup seals a new covenant.
Lifeflood for healing and joy.

In eating and drinking we acknowledge with thanks
Our covenant with all created things
To heal and tend and foster growth,
And not to deplete and destroy.

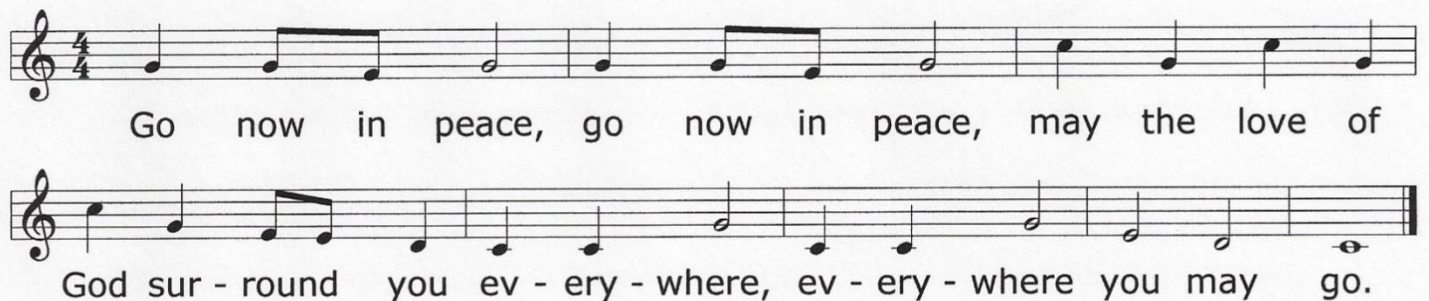
THANKSGIVING

Thank you, thank you, thank you, God, for making grape and wheat and sun and rain and us ourselves. Thank you for the gift of life! May we tend that life, your life in all living things and the Earth itself. Amen

SENDING HYMN

Go Now in Peace

Natalie Sleeth



Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of
God sur - round you ev - ery - where, ev - ery - where you may go.

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SENDING PRAYER

*For July our steeple is lit in memory of
Robert Brazil & Jeannie Panzini
by Tracy and Roberta Dalton*

MEETINGS & OTHER HAPPENINGS

Tuesday 7/16 10 AM Bible Study

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers The Congregation
Pastor Reverend Holly S. Brauner
Director of Music..... Robert Knapp
Organist.....Emily Knapp
Sexton Kimberlee Knapp
Office Administrator..... Julie Bernier
Moderator
Clerk Toni Cassidy
Finance..... Kristen Arsenault
DiaconateRachel Angerhofer
PropertyJoAnne Kelly & Tom Johnson
Christian Development Marie Birdsall-Chaffee
MissionsRachel Angerhofer
Collector Robert Knapp
Member-at-Large Susan Stead

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00 AM-NOON

Holly's Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

and by appointment (781) 632-8964

Pastor Email: pastor@fccgeorgetownma.org

Office Phone: (978) 352-8443

Office Email: churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org

Website: www.fccgeorgetownma.org

WELCOME

If you are a visitor from “near or far” and would like to learn more about our congregation and its ministries, please speak with an usher and/or greeter. You may also sign the visitors card found in the pews and place it in the offering plate. Please indicate whether you would like a call or visit from the pastor.

A COMMUNITY THAT AIMS FOR HOSPITALITY

We are delighted you have come to join us on this Sunday. First Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, which means that wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here. We have large print bulletins, hearing assistance devices, wheelchair and elevator accessibility, and all-gender restrooms. Please let us know if you still have difficulties hearing. While we hope to anticipate needs, please share any ideas you have for ways to expand our accessibility for all.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

We believe that children help complete our worship experience. We encourage children to be an active part of worship; this is where they learn the most about the Christian family—by experiencing it! Encourage your child to sing along, clap, wiggle, offer prayer requests, and join in communion.

LIGHT THE CHURCH FUND

Contributions for lighting the church steeple can be made in memory of loved ones or in honor of someone special. If you would like to contribute or need more information, please contact Robert Knapp at 978-352-7489.

MEMORIAL FUND

This is a wonderful and meaningful way to pay tribute to family or friends who have gone before us. A gift to the Church's Memorial Fund is always timely and names of those we love live on with all of us as we remember them over the years. Gifts can be mailed or placed in the offering, be sure to note who is being honored with this gift.

FLOWER CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to contribute flowers or make a monetary donation for the Communion Table for an anniversary, birthday, or special occasion please contact Nancy Aberman at 978-457-5924.