

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.*



Order of Worship
November 3rd, 2024

The Reverend Holly S. Brauner, Pastor

Robert Knapp, Director of Music

Emily Knapp, Organist

WE GATHER

GATHERING MUSIC Why Have You Chosen Me? arr, DeCou

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Holly

OPENING MUSIC *La Réjouissance* Woodwinds

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Martha Lucius

ONE: God's Word called into being the pumpkins, the geese who fly south, the leaves which litter our lawns.

ALL: In awe, we come into the presence of the God of vivid imagination.

ONE: God's arms reach down and gather up children, lovingly placing us in grace's lap.

ALL: In joy, we reach up to the God who loves us completely.

ONE: God's Spirit fills our lungs, so we can cry out for justice for the broken, the young, the old, the abandoned of our time.

ALL: In service, we join with our God to build hope in our world.

***HYMN**

Womb of Life, and Source of Being

Ruth Duck

Ludwig Van Beethoven

Womb of life, and source of be - ing, home of ev' - ry
Word of flesh, our broth - er Je - sus, born to bring us
Brood - ing Spir - it move a - mong us; be our part - ner,
Moth - er, Broth - er, ho - ly part - ner, Fa - ther, Spir - it,
rest - less heart. In your arms the worlds a - wak - ened;
sec - ond birth. You have come to stand be - side us,
be our friend. When our mem - 'ry fails, re - mind us
On - ly Son; We would praise your name for - ev - er,
you have loved us from the start. We, your child - ren,
know - ing weak - ness, know - ing earth, Priest who shares our
whose we are, what we in - tend. La - bor with us,
one - in - three, and three - in - one. We would share your
ga - ther 'round you, at the ta - ble, you pre - pare. Shar - ing
hu - man strug - gles, Life of Life, and Death of Death. Ris - en
aid the birth - ing of the new world yet to be, Free of
life, your pas - sion, share your word of world made new. Ev - er
stor - ies, tears, and laugh - ter, we are nur - tured by your care.
Christ, come stand a - mong us, send the Spir - it by your breath.
ser - vant, lord, and mas - ter, free for love and u - ni - ty.
sing - ing, ev - er prais - ing, one with all, and one with you.

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***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you

ALL: And, also with you

WE PAUSE

OPENING PRAYER

In gentle touches of fathers, in calming words of mothers, you care for us; through teachers in schools, neighbors at the corner, colleagues who share jobs with us, you touch us with your peace. We worship you, Holy God, with our words and with our silence.

You appeared but once, yet all people have been cleansed in your grace; you lived but once, yet every life is redeemed by your love; you died but once, and all people will live in your kingdom forever. Jesus, Friend of the fallen, we follow you with our lives.

Stained by the pride of the world, you wash us with your tears; made naked by the criticisms of others, you clothe us with your grace; condemned by those around us, you hallow us with your hope. We welcome you into our hearts, Spirit of Joy.

God in Community, Holy in One, we lift our prayers to you as we use the words Jesus taught us,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We bring our flawed lives to God, not so much to be made perfect, but to be whole. Let us confess our sins to God, trusting the One who builds joy from our despair.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Bountiful Love: our self-focus causes us to imagine how poor we are. We are convinced we don't have enough: enough honor, enough respect, enough recognition, enough to live on.

And so, in our poverty, we cannot trust you, we cannot see the emptiness of others, we cannot help but cling to more than we need.

Forgive us, Bestower of Blessings. Tell us we can be more loving; whisper to us of how we can be more compassionate; sing to us of how we can serve others – all in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENCE IS KEPT

WORDS OF GRACE

The good news is that we are made whole; not by our efforts, not by any work we have done, not by any word of ours. Out of the riches of grace, God pours forgiveness into our lives, giving us all we need in Jesus Christ, so we might live in hope and joy. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Holly

***HYMN**

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

Alfred F. Bayly

The Sacred Harp



Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice bore the
Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the
As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your
Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in
weight of hu - man need, who up - on the cross, for -
hun - gry cry for bread; still the cap - tives long for
love's re - veal - ing light in its height and depth and
your dear name we go to the child, the youth, the
sak - en, of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, we, your
free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O
great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, mak - ing
a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show; hope and
ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart,
Lord, your deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
health, good will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,
con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - ery gift that you im - part.
use the love your Spir - it kin - dles still to save and make us whole.
stir - ring us to tire - less striv - ing, your a - bun - dant life to share.
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know, and live.

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WE LISTEN

SCRIPTURE

Ruth 3: 1-5; 4: 13-17

Rev. Holly

One day, Naomi said to Ruth, “My daughter, it’s my duty to ensure your security and fulfillment, and make sure you are provided for. And Boaz, whose workers you have been following, is our closest relative. Tonight, he’ll be winnowing grain on the threshing floor. Wash up and put on perfume and dress in your finest clothes.

Then go down to the threshing floor. But don't let him know you're there until he has finished eating and drinking. "When he goes to sleep, watch to see where he lies down. Then go and 'uncover his feet' and lie down with him. He'll tell you what to do next." Ruth replied, "I will do as you tell me."

So Ruth and Boaz were married. And from their union, YHWH enabled Ruth to conceive and she gave birth to a child. Then the women of the village said to Naomi, "Praised be YHWH, who has not abandoned you but provided you with yet another redeemer! May the child's name be remembered through all of Israel—and give you renewed life and support you when you are old! For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and has proven better than seven of your own children could ever have been, has given birth to him." Naomi took the child into her lap and she became his caretaker. And Naomi's neighbors named the child, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi; we will call him Obed." And Obed begot Jesse—and Jesse begot David.

MESSAGE All in the Family

MOMENT OF MEDITATIVE MUSIC

WE RESPOND

OFFERING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

As God's beloved, we are reminded that we each have many gifts and ways to give, talents and resources a plenty. May we share our abundance in the same spirit that God lavishes love and mercy on us each and every day.

OFFERTORY

Our Lord Redeems Our Souls

Woodwinds

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all creat-ures here be-low;

Praise God for all that love has done; Cre-a-tor, Christ, and Spir-it, One. A-men.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING**

Imagining we are very poor, we think our gifts don't matter, and so give very little. Yet, from the abundance of your love, you challenge us to be as faithful as the woman Jesus speaks about. Make us more generous and gracious givers, even as you take what we offer in these moments and use them in the work of your kingdom. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: RECONCILIATION

Invitation

Michelle Brock

The psalmist sang, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies."

This is not a taunting meal of Uses and Thems. It's a place, a time when even enemies can feast together.

Come, then, you who have harsh words between you. Stand side by side in silence. Come, you who have fought good fights and bad fights and everything in between. Find peace, if only for a moment.

Come, you who can't yet face each other fully. Find the face of God in every sibling.

God abhors abuse, and never asks us to submit to the domineering strength of another. But true reconciliation among people on equal footing sets us free and transforms conflict into amazing grace.

So lay aside argument, distance, alienation, confusion, power over, and even principles. Come to this feast empty, hungry and ready.

Prayer of Consecration

Rev. Holly

Holy One, you inhabit these elements of bread and cup. As each has already been transformed from what it was into something more nourishing, ready to give energy to the body, so transform us into those who can nourish the world. As we pull from a common loaf, unite us. As we drink from a common cup, a symbol of shared fate, send us down the same road, with strength in numbers. Make us truly one in Christ.

Bread and Cup

We remember that on the night before he died, Jesus sat at the table with all of them: friend and foe. He didn't ask how they voted, where they stood on church doctrines, or whether they would remain true, even to him.

He took bread, and giving thanks to God, he said to all, "Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this and remember me."

He took wine and said, "This is not just a cup – it's a covenant, to bind us together, to help us forget the sins of the past."

Ministering to you in the name of Jesus, the Great Uniter, we partake of this feast.

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

COMMUNION HYMN (singing verses 1&3, then 2&3)

Let Us Break Bread Together

American Spiritual



Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees: -
Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; -
Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; -



— Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees: -
— Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; -
— Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



— When I fall on my knees, with my



face to the ris - ing sun, O Lord have mer - cy on me.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Michelle Brock


God, let the unity we have at this table endure long after we have digested these elements. Feed our minds the manna of gentleness and the ability to take another's perspective. Juice us with the joy that comes when we can set aside our differences and come together as your children. Thank you for every time we eat this meal together, you give us an opportunity to lay down arms, stop taking sides, and find again our common humanity and divinity. Amen.

*HYMN

Now Let Us from This Table Rise

Fred Kaan

adapt. Michael Praetorius



Now let us from this ta - ble rise, re - newed in
With minds a - lert, up - held by grace, to spread the
To fill each hu - man house with love, it is the
Then give us grace, Com - pan - ion - God, to chose a -
bod - y, mind and soul, with Christ we die and
Word in speech and deed, we fol - low in the
sac - ra - ment of care; the work that Christ be -
gain the pil - grim way, and help us to ac -
live a - gain, his self - less love has made us whole.
steps of Christ, at one with all in hope and need.
gan to do we hum - bly pledge our - selves to share.
cept with joy the chal - lenge of to - mor - row's day.

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SENDING PRAYER

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold onto what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the suffering. Honor all persons. Honor all creation. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the love of God, the Light of Christ, and the power and communion of that Spirit be with us all. Go in peace. Amen.

*POSTLUDE

Shower the People

James Taylor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

⁺⁺ Today's scripture is from *The Inclusive Bible*, compiled and edited by Priests for Equality, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. 2007.

[^]The words for The Lord's Supper, "Reconciliation" was written by Molly Baskette, in a compilation of resources titled *Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living*, edited by Mary Luti, published by The Pilgrim Press, 2023. Pp. 125-126.

MEETINGS & OTHER HAPPENINGS

Sunday 11/3

9:30AM Bells

10:30AM Worship

3PM Northeast Association Music Festival

(See Bulletin Insert)

Tuesday 11/5

10AM Bible Study

6:30PM Bell Choir

7:30PM Band

Saturday 11/9

8AM Men's Group

Sunday 11/10

9:30AM Bells

Tuesday 11/12

12PM Women's Guild

Anyone wishing to support the church by lighting the steeple is invited to make a donation.

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
Diaconate Rachel Angerhofer
Property JoAnne Kelly & Tom Johnson
Christian Development Marie Birdsall-Chaffee
Missions Rachel Angerhofer
Collector Robert Knapp
Member-at-Large

***Church Office Hours:** Wednesday - Friday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Rev. Holly's Office Hours: Tuesdays 10AM to 1PM & Thu 9AM to 12PM
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**

*Note change in office hours for next week only

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.

***UCC's Northeast
Association
Music Festival***



Raising Our Hallelujahs!!

The Northeast Association invites you to come and sing!
Just sing, (or listen or clap, if singing isn't your thing.)

From the choir or from the pews,
we will gather for a brief time to celebrate and give
thanks for God's love and abundance, in song.

Join us and bring a friend or neighbor.

It won't be the same without you! .

Sunday, November 3rd at 3 pm

**First Church of Swampscott, Congregational
40 Monument Avenue
Swampscott, Mass 01907**

For more information contact the Festival Planning team at hsbrauner@gmail.com