

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
January 19th, 2025**

The Reverend Holly S. Brauner, Pastor

Robert Knapp, Director of Music

Emily Knapp, Organist

We Gather

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Holly

OPENING MUSIC

Before Dear Lord

Band

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Kirsten Davis

ONE: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

ALL: For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!

ONE: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains; your judgements are like the great deep.

ALL: For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!

ONE: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you and your salvation to the upright of heart!

ALL: For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!

*HYMN

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Clara H. Scott



O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth you
O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth you
O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth



have for me place in my hands the won - der - ful key
send so clear; and while the mes - sage sounds in my ear,
ev' - ry - where; o - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare



that shall un - clasp and set me free. Si - lent - ly now I
ev' - ry - thing false will dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I
love with your chil - dren thus to share. Si - lent - ly now I



wait for thee, read - y, my God thy will to see;
wait for thee, read - y, my God thy will to see;
wait for thee, read - y, my God thy will to see;



o - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
o - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
o - pen my heart, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

Words & Music 1897

PASSING OF THE PEACE

We Pause

INVOCATION

Magnificent God, we come to draw near to you. Your presence among us sustains and challenges us. In you, we find strength and surprises. May the songs we sing, the prayers we pray, the word proclaimed, and the lives touched honor your name. We give you glory and honor. We welcome you and pray that your spirit shapes us with fresh wind, power, and compassion. Amen.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & NEW LIFE

Gracious God, we live in the tension between expectation and reality. Sometimes, we navigate that tension with hope and clarity. At other times, we fester in doubt, disappointment, and uncertainty. Help us to release our need to control and enable us to embrace the possibilities. May our trust in your goodness and the power you have poured into us embolden our faith. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved, know that God's grace meets us at our point of need with encouragement. Circumstances change, and that's the nature of God's creative work. Receive the gift of new life with the unexpected experiences it brings. God is with you and equips you for the journey.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

*HYMN

O FOR A WORLD

Miriam Therese Winter

Carl Gotthelf Gläser

O for a world where ev - ery - one re -
O for a world where goods are shared and
We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and
The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the
O for a world pre - par - ing for God's
spect's each oth - er's ways, where love is lived and
mis - er - y re - lieved, where truth is spo - ken,
strug - gle with each choice that o - pens us to
fool - ish ones are wise. Tell all who mourn; out -
glo - rious reign of peace, where time and tears will
all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
chil - dren spared, and e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
be no more, and all but love will cease.

Words © 1987 Medical Mission Sisters Music 1828

We Listen

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Romans 12:9-21

Alecia Balduf

Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle. Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality. Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody. Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting

even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it." Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good."

Remembering Martin Luther King Jr.: A Message of Faith, Freedom, and Unity
Alecia Balduf

MOMENT OF MEDITATIVE MUSIC

We Respond

OFFERING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Whatever gifts we bring may be transformed like water to the best wine. Trust God with what we have to offer. Our trust can sow miracles, reveal Jesus in the world, and magnify joy in our communities. Give with peace that the kingdom overflows with abundance and with hope that our collective efforts make the world new.

OFFERTORY

May Jesus Christ Be Praised

Band

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 THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Holy One, may our gifts declare your glory and benefit the common good. Receive them with our gratitude for your generosity and the opportunity to participate in your kin-dom on earth. Amen.

***HYMN**

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

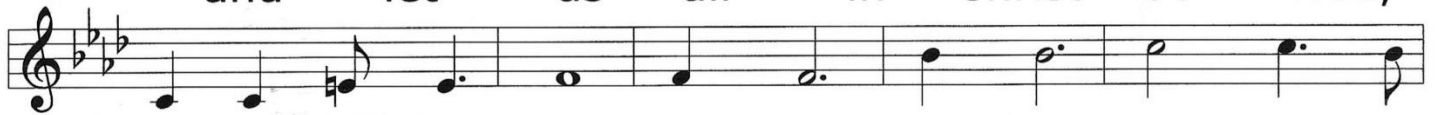
American Spiritual



When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land,
Thus saith the Lord, bold Mo - ses said,
The Lord told Mo - ses what to do, let my peo-ple
Then Mir - iam danced and sang her song,
Oh, let us all from bond-age flee,



op - pressed so hard they could not stand,
if not I'll smite your first - born dead,
go, to lead the He - brew chil - dren through,
"Our God has tri - umphed o - ver wrong!"
and let us all in Christ be free,



let my peo-ple go, Go down, Mo - ses, 'way down in



E-gypt's land tell old Phar-aoh, to let my peo-ple go.

Pre 1860

SENDING PRAYER

May you be filled by the presence of God
May you draw from the wells of justice, peace, and righteousness
May you taste the fruit of the Spirit
As you make the way of Jesus your path in the world
And you make the name of God known in word and deed.
Go, in peace and power to love and serve God and neighbor.

***SENDING MUSIC**

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

2025 ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT

In accordance with Our Congregation's Constitution and By-laws, the members and friends of The First Congregational Church of Georgetown, Inc. are advised that the Annual Meeting will be held in the Church edifice immediately following the service of worship on Sunday, January 26, 2025 to act on the following articles:

Article I: To receive the reports of the individual Council Members and their teams and any others requested by the Council with the exception of the "2024 Financial Report and Proposed 2025 Budget", and the "Nomination Report" or take any other related action;

Article II: To receive the 2024 Financial report, to hear the Finance Team's proposed 2024 budget, and to approve a budget for 2025 or take any other related action;

Article III: To receive and hear the "Nomination Report" and call persons to fill Council and Team vacancies or take any other related action;

Article IV: To see if Our Congregation will, by a two thirds or more majority vote, amend section 5.0 of version 5.1 of the Constitution and By-laws by adding the italicized sections below:

5.0 CORPORATE ORGANIZATION

Our Congregation shall be governed by a Council made up of the Pastor, Moderator, Clerk, Member at Large, Chair of the Diaconate Team, Chair of the Christian Development Team, Chair of the Property Team and Chair of the Finance Team.

Until rescinded by a 2/3 majority vote of the Council, the Christian Development Team Chair shall be replaced by second member of the Diaconate Team, selected by the Diaconate Team.

The Council shall be assisted by four teams entitled Diaconate, Christian Development, Property, and Finance.

Until rescinded by a 2/3 majority vote of the Council, the Duties, Procedures, and Requirements of the Christian Development Team shall become the responsibility of the Diaconate Team.

or take any other related action;

Article V: To hear and act on any other business relative to Our Congregation and its property.
By Direction of Our Congregation's Council

Toni Cassidy



Clerk

MEETINGS & OTHER HAPPENINGS

Tuesday 1/21

10AM Bible Study

6:30PM Bell Choir

7:30PM Band

Sunday 1/26

11:30 Annual Meeting

Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday 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

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.