

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
February 9th, 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

I'm Down by the River

Band

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Susan Stead

ONE: Blessed are those who trust - in God!

ALL: We come in trust, to be grounded in God's love.

ONE: Blessed are those who hope - in God!

ALL: We come in hope, trusting in the One who gives us life.

ONE: Blessed are those who delight - in God's Word!

ALL: We come to hear God speak, hoping for healing and joy.

*HYMN

Gather Us In

Mary Haugen



Here in this place, the new light is stream - ing,
We are the young, our lives are a mys - tery;
Here we re - ceive new life in your wa - ters;
Not just in build - ings, small and con - fin - ing,



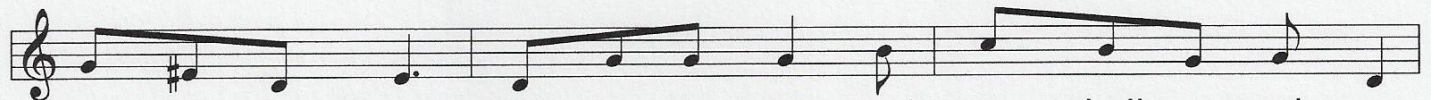
now the dark night has van - ished a - way. See in this space our
we are the old, who yearn for your face. We have been sung through -
here we re - ceive the bread of new birth; here you shall call your
not in some heav - en, light years a - way, here in this place the



fears and our dream - ings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
out all of his - tory, called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
sons and your daugh - ters, call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
new light is shin - ing; now is God pres - ent, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath - er us in, our
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty; gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath - er us in and



spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fas - sion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you

ALL: **And, also with you**

A MESSAGE FROM THE AREA CONFERENCE MINISTER

Rev. Katie Omberg

We Pause

OPENING PRAYER

God of our wonder, Heart of creation: we are blessed when we feast on your Word: that Word which embraces us; that Word which teaches us; that Word which transfigures us; that Word which grounds us. Give us your Word this, and every, day.

Jesus Christ, Heart of God's children: we are blessed when we have your compassion: that heart for the poor; for the hungry; for those who weep; for those left out. Give us your heart this, and every, day.

Holy Delight, Grace's Heartbeat: we bear fruit when we overflow with your spirit: that spirit of generosity; that spirit of pouring ourselves out in service; that spirit of bearing another's burden.

Give us your spirit this, and every, day.

God in Community, Holy in One, may our hearts beat as one with your heart, even as we pray as Jesus has 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

Now, if what we hear from the world is true, we would have no need to come before God. But in fact, the witness of scripture, and of the faithful, is true. God is to be trusted with every secret of our hearts, as well as offered our brokenness. Join me as we pray to the One who waits to forgive us.

UNISON PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION & NEW LIFE

We confess what we are afraid to face, Blessing God, that the seductions of this world gnaw away at our hearts. We have more and more to choose from at the market, and so we forget those whose only choice is hunger. Our sense that we are your favorites causes us to make fun of those we are convinced are not. We are so consumed with saving enough for the future, we overlook those who have so little this day.

Forgive us, Heartbroken God, for thinking we are the center of your world. Pour your living water into us, so we might send down roots deep into your heart, and so become those people who are blessings to others, as we have received the gift of new life from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

SILENCE IS KEPT

WORDS OF GRACE

Blessed are you: for God forgives you and restores you to new life. Rejoice in this day and dance for joy!

Thanks be to God! Our faith is true, and our hope is grounded in the promises of the One we can trust not only on this day, but in every day to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

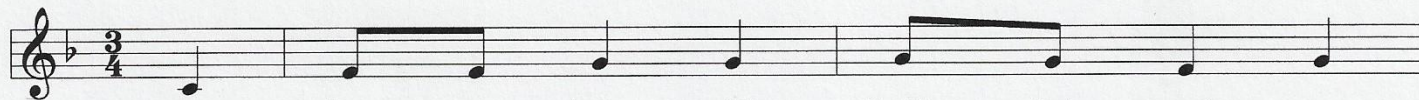
PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN**

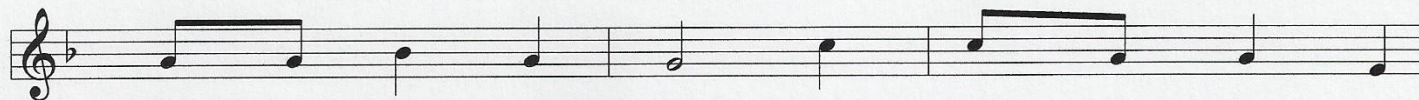
Come, Let Us Join With Faithful Souls

Willim G. Tarrant

Carl G. Gläser



Come let us join with faith - ful souls our
Faith - ful are all who love the truth and
And faith - ful are the gen - tle hearts to
O God of Hosts, our faith re - new, and



song of faith to raise; One fam - i - ly in
per - fect truth pro - claim. Who stead - fast stand at
whom the pow'r is given. O ev - 'ry hearth to
grant us, in your grace, to join the songs sung



heart are we, and one the God we praise.
God's right hand and glo - ri - fy God's name.
make a home, of ev - 'ry home a heaven.
by the saints in ev - 'ry time and place.

Words -1892 Melody -1828

We Listen

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:27-30

And God, who knows everything in our hearts, knows perfectly well what the Spirit is saying, because her intercessions for God's holy people are made according to the mind of God. We know that God makes everything work together for the good of those who love God and have been called according to God's purpose. They are the ones God chose long ago, predestined to share the image of the Only Begotten, in order that Christ might be the firstborn of many. Those God predestined have likewise been called; those God called have also been justified; and those God justified have, in turn, been glorified.

MESSAGE

Christ.... the firstborn of many

Rev. Holly

MOMENT OF MEDITATIVE MUSIC

We Respond

OFFERING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

God is the giver of all good things, the One who fashioned each of us with unique gifts that together make the Body of Christ whole. We are invited to offer our lives back to God, sharing our time, skills and money, and in doing so we say 'yes' to God's invitation to join in the Kin-dom building work here on earth.

OFFERTORY

The Beatitudes

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 DEDICATION

You pour out your abundance on us, Loving God, as we can alleviate the sufferings of others, turn their woes into blessings, and their emptiness into overflowing grace and life. Take the gifts we offer and use them in the work of your new life which is in our midst. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

LITURGY OF FAREWELL

Greetings

Rachel Angerhofer

Our church community is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, growing toward new places, new experiences, new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share a farewell with our pastor, Holly Brauner.

Reverend Holly:

I give thanks to God for the ways you have welcomed me, supported my family and journeyed with me as disciples of Christ. I pray for God's blessing upon you.
Ending of Authorized Ministry

Rev. Katie Omberg

On November 22, 2020, this congregation called Rev. Holly S Brauner to serve as your pastor here at First Congregational Church in Georgetown.

Rev. Holly

I thank FCC Georgetown, its members and friends, for the love, kindness and support shown me these last 4 years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been encouraged and accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

Congregation

We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that your time with us is ending. We express our gratitude for your ministry among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Rev. Holly

I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

Vows of Release

Rev. Rona Tyndall

Do, you, the members and friends of First Congregational Church of Georgetown, release the Rev. Holly Brauner from the duties of Pastor?

Congregation

We do, with the help of God.

Rev. Rona

Do you offer her your encouragement as her life and ministry unfold in new ways?

Congregation

We do, with the help of God.

Rev. Rona

Do you, Rev. Holly Brauner, release the First Congregational Church of Georgetown from turning to you and depending on you?

Rev. Holly

I do, with the help of God.

Rev. Rona

Do you offer your encouragement for the continuing ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

Rev. Holly:

I do, with the help of God.

Rev. Katie:

On behalf of the Northeast Association of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness and release. The member churches of our association and conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

Prayer

Rev. Katie: Let us pray:

All: O God, we give thanks for remembered times, when we, together, have shared this life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Holly in worship, in prayer, and in presence. We pray that Holly will always be aware of your Spirit's guidance in their life and ministry. Help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other. In the name of Jesus Christ, and for Love's sake, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Jane Parker Huber

John Zundel

Called as part - ners in Christ's ser - vice, called to min - is -
Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir - ing, Christ's clear call to
Thus new pat - terns for Christ's mis - sion, in a small or
So God grant us for to - mor - row ways to or - der

tries of grace, we re - spond with deep com - mit - ment
work and worth, let us fol - low, nev - er fal - tering,
glob - al sense, help us bear each oth - er's bur - dens,
hu - man life that sur - round each per - son's sor - row

fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of
rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth. Men and wom - en, rich - er,
break - ing down each wall or fence. Words of com - fort, words of
with a calm that con - quers strife. Make us part - ners in our

shar - ing, side by side and friend with friend, e - qual
poor - er, all God's peo - ple, young and old, blend - ing
vis - ion, words of chal - lenge, said with care, bring new
liv - ing, our com - pas - sion is in - crease, mes - sen -

part - ners in our car - ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
pow'r and strength for ac - tion, make us part - ners, free and fair.
gers of faith; thus giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

Words © 1981 Jane Parker Huber Music - 1855

SENDING BLESSING

ONE: Grounded in God's love, we are sent out

ALL: To share abundance with those who have so little.

ONE: Blessed with Jesus' hope, we go forth

ALL: To fill the emptiness of those longing for justice.

ONE: Blessed with the Spirit's delight, we dance into the world

**ALL: To take the hands of our sisters and brother,
and gather at the edge of living waters for a picnic.**

***SENDING MUSIC**

++ Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (p. 738). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

Please welcome our guest this morning who preside over our Service of Farewell for Rev. Holly.

Rev. Katie Omberg (they/them) is our Bridge Area Conference Minister, recently appointed to oversee our Northeast Association (NEA) churches while the Conference find someone for this permanent position. . .

Rev. Rona Tyndall (she/her) is the current Moderator for the NEA as well as serving as the settled pastor at West Gloucester Trinitarian United Church of Christ.

MEETINGS & OTHER HAPPENINGS

Sunday 2/9

Super Bowl Subs,

Tuesday 2/11

6PM Finance Meeting

6:30PM Bell Choir,

7:30PM Band

Wednesday 2/12

7PM Missions

Sunday 2/16

10:30AM Worship

11:30AM W.I.S.E Church Meeting

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 Rich Brock
Clerk Toni Cassidy
Finance Kristen Arsenault
Diaconate Rachel Angerhofer
Property JoAnne Kelly & Tom Johnson
Missions Rachel Angerhofer
Collector Robert Knapp
Member-at-Large Alecia Balduf

Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

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.