



January 24, 2021

Third Sunday after Epiphany

9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Keith Ciccone, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Michael Frady

INROIT

Sanctuary

Valerie Johnson, Soprano

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Open to God's word, our souls wait in silence.

In God alone do our spirits find peace.

Almighty God is our rock and our salvation.

In God alone does our faith remain unshaken.

Pour out your hearts before God.

For God is our strength and our refuge.

Put your trust in God.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

HYMN

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Holy One, send your word, like rain in the desert, to satisfy our thirsty souls. Nurture us and strengthen our spirits, that we may be centered on your ways and empowered by your Holy Spirit. Inspire us to live your lessons, that our actions may be just and our words may be true reflections of your love and grace. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

World without end. Amen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15: 1-5, 12-17

SERMON

“Staying Connected”

Rev. Michael Frady

HYMN

Weave

PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING

INTRODUCTION

AFFIRMATION OF SHAWL MINISTRY (Responsive)

Without even knowing who would receive it, each shawl was made specifically for the person who will receive it.

May they see the intricate love and care given to this shawl, mirroring the intricate love and care that God bestows upon all people.

This shawl was made to bring warmth to someone who feels a chill.

May they feel the warm breath of the Holy Spirit as they wrap themselves with it.

This shawl was made to bring comfort to someone who feels alone.

May they feel comfort in knowing that someone prayed for them as they pieced it together.

This shawl was made to bring peace to someone in need of prayer.

May they feel the power of our prayers as they feel the yarn winding through their fingers.

This shawl was made to remind the recipient that they are part of this community.

May they feel touched by our love and connected to us through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

God of creation, redemption and sustaining grace, we praise you for the opportunity to take part in this ministry so that we might see a world beyond ours. We thank you for putting those in need in our hearts and in our minds so that we might fully live out your call to love and serve. Bless those who carefully and prayerfully knitted these shawls. We ask that you bless these shawls and those who will receive them. May they feel the love, comfort and peace of your presence. And may your light shine on them and be a beacon of the hope that is promised to all of us. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Suzy Aja Burba

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures, here, below.

Praise Him, above, ye heav'nly hosts.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, may these gifts of money and ministry be like wings to the exhausted and strength to the powerless. May these offerings of ours serve to bind up the broken-hearted and welcome the outcast. And may our offerings of time, talent, and treasure sing your praises and be a cause of delight throughout your marvelous world. Amen.

HYMN

Blest be the Tie That Binds

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church. Of all the things you could have done this morning, we're glad you chose to be with us.



About Today's Service: We are live-streaming today's service for those who can not attend in person. We are closely watching the recommendations of the United Church of Christ and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in regards to holding in-person worship service due to the current COVID-19 status in our community. The situation is fluid so please check our webpage to confirm if weekly worship services are in-person or only online.

Subscribe to the First Church YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTaGrBGnYzfM66pS7Bd4PvA>

Prayer Lists are available at the back of the sanctuary.

Non-perishable Food Pantry donations are collected for The Marge Crispin Center on the first Wednesday of the Month in front of the church. Contact free! Just drive by and drop. Or place your donations in the basket in LPH or the Narthex. Thank you!

First Congregational Church is handicapped accessible. Please see an usher if you need assistance with the elevator.

Televised Worship Services are broadcast on BCAM: Verizon Channel 28, Comcast Channel 9, on Saturday at 8:00 AM and Sunday at 10:00 AM.

First Church Office Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00am—1:00pm.



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