

WELCOME TO FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH! We are happy to have you with us. This service is part of our ongoing life of worship, learning, and service. We are here to deepen our relationship with God and with one another, and to explore how to live our lives more fully and compassionately. We invite you to continue your journey with us. If you are visiting with us today, please complete a welcome card found in the pews and place it in the offering plate or hand it to any usher.



The First Congregational Church
West Boylston, Massachusetts
*A Congregation of the
United Church of Christ*

April 23, 2023
The Third Sunday of Easter
10:00 a.m.

Serving Us Today

Ushers	Amie Dehner and David Gustafson
Musician	Michael Westberry
Lay Reader	Dave Russo
Coffee Server	Pamela Doonan
A/V Technician	Zachary Arvantely

Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9-2
508-835-4462 administrator@fccwb.com www.fccwb.com
Pastor Julie Cedrone - julie@fccwb.com

Staff

The Reverend Julie L. Cedrone, Pastor	Lisa A. Fisher, Administrative Assistant
Waldo Cummings III, Custodian	Corinne S. Uliano, Nursery School Director
Laurie A. Keenan, Nursery School Assistant Director	

Pastors in Residence

The Reverend Karyl J. Leslie
The Reverend George E. Vogel, Associate Pastor Emeritus

WE ASSEMBLE AND PRAISE GOD

PRELUDE Pisgah / When I Can Read My Title Clear arr. Louie White

WELCOME AND WORD OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus is with you while you walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus,

Reader: Jesus is with us while we walk.

People: We journey with Jesus on the road.

Reader: Jesus travels with us wherever we go.

Leader: And yet we could not recognize Jesus

People: until we broke bread together,

Reader: until we shared our hearts and stories.

Leader: At once, our eyes are opened and we say:

People: Oh! Our hearts were burning for that familiar voice!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen, indeed!

Reader: Christ is risen, indeed!

Leader: Praise God!

All: Alleluia!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*HYMN No. 363

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, look at our hearts. Even when Christ shows up as a stranger in our walk, like the apostles, we too sigh and say, “Don’t you know anything?” Then, we often wish they would go back to where they came from as we try to explain to them the way things work or what everyone from around here already knows. Yet, our hearts burn even while Jesus walks with us and we are blind to Christ’s presence. Forgive us, God, and show us the way. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

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 forever. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Let us remember how Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." You have been born anew through the living and enduring word of God. This promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom our God calls. Welcome this message, remembering your baptism: rejoice knowing that you are added to the number of believers.

CALL TO PRAISE

Leader: Let us sing praise to God!
People: We will continually praise God's name.

*GLORIA PATRI No. 579

**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.**

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

MOMENTS WITH THE YOUNG AT HEART

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Luke 24:13-35

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Leader: This is God's holy word.
People: May it speak to us today.

SERMON

Walk This Way

The Reverend Julie L. Cedrone

*HYMN Insert

Help Us Accept Each Other

THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

OUR FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

Prayers of the People
Pastoral Prayer
Musical Response

OFFERING INVITATION AND TESTIMONY

Tom Hays

Servants of God, God has loosed our bonds. What can we offer to the One who has heard our cries and has saved us? What shall we return to God for all his bounty to us? Our gifts serve as vows to serve God, in the presence of all God's people and everywhere around the world. Visitors are invited to fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate.

DUET

Be Thou My Vision
Callie Arvantely and Laura Bronwell

*AT THE PRESENTATION

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, through the precious lamb who is our Christ, you have redeemed us beyond the perishable silver and gold we now present to you. We pay our vows of devotion, offering you these sacrifices of thanksgiving. Amen.

*HYMN Insert

Praise to God

BLESSING

Fellow walkers along the way, as we continue our journeys, be aware of the risen Christ in the ones who were once strangers. While you walk, while you eat, while you live, while you breathe, to testify to the living Christ among us all.

POSTLUDE

My Jesus Leadeth Me, Op. 122

Johannes Brahms

Our worship is over, our service in the world begins

****Those who are able, please stand***

*You are invited to remain seated for the Postlude.
If need be, please leave the sanctuary quietly so that others may enjoy the Postlude.*

Prayer and Praise

Names will be listed for two weeks unless we hear from you that the need continues.

All those with health concerns:

Sophia Landeo	Rick Poland
Lori Rotti-Carol Barnes' daughter-in-law	Cherie-Karyl Leslie's friend
Philip Helle	Janet Gustafson
Richard Whitney	Travis Rotti
Nick Person	Linda, Beth Tivnan's friend
Ursula Helle	Alvin Barakian
Allison Person	Donna Raymond's nephew
Rob Nierintz	Dan Newman's mother
Sue Coviello	Ed Reardson
Ron Newman-Dan Newman's father	Daniel Goldbrick
Carol Ann Hamilton	John-Marsha Saunders' nephew

Wider concerns:

Nancy-Ben Bryant's friend's significant other	Ukrainian refugees and those struggling to survive in Ukraine.
Scott Holt	Victims of violent crimes and their families.
A child-Donna Raymond's friend	The refugees from Afghanistan.
Ron & Carol Barnes	Those who are feeling especially lonely or bereft at this time.
Gail-friend of Diana Engelbart	Our service men and women around the world and their families.
Virginia-Karyl Leslie's friend	Those who are unemployed among us and around the country.
Brent-Beverly Fisher's son	Those in need of coats, warm clothing, and housing for the winter months and the volunteers caring for them.
Dawn-a former faithful thrift shop volunteer	
Karyl Leslie	
Obadidullah- a14 year old Afghan refugee seeking medical help in Worcester	
Connie Stewart	
Barbara-Esther Bryant's friend	
Doris Johnson	

Calendar for the Week

***Today ~ Please join us for coffee in Fellowship Hall following worship.
Christ Over Coffee will reflect on the Sunday morning scripture.***

Mon Apr 24 5:30 p.m. Chancel Ringers Rehearsal
Tue Apr 25 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting

Sunday, April 30, 2023

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

The Sacrament of Christian Baptism

8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. Worship

The Reverend Julie L. Cedrone, preaching

Kate Kent, piano and violin

Congregational Election Meeting following worship.

3:00 p.m. Spring Concert & Organ Dedication

If you would like to donate altar flowers
please contact Lisa Fisher in the church office, 508-835-4462.

The cost of the flowers is \$35.00.

Available dates: Apr 30

2023 Offering Envelopes have arrived. They can be picked up in the narthex.