

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 25, 2020

“Give me a lever long enough, give me a fulcrum strong enough, give me a place to stand, and single-handed, I will move the world.”

~ Archimedes

WELCOME TO OUR DIGITAL WORSHIP!

In this church we focus on the things that matter. It doesn't matter to us if you grew up in a church or never set foot in one before. You matter to us. We welcome you as you are, because we believe that we are all embraced by God's inclusive and extravagant love.

We invite you to “check in” on the social media of your choice, let them know that you are doing church, even in these uncertain times, ask your networks for prayer requests, or otherwise bring your online self into God’s presence today.

SHARING YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS

Because of a few minutes broadcast delay, prayer concerns and celebrations to be shared during worship can be emailed to prayers@firstchurchnatick.org at any time before or during the worship service up to the Reflection.

PRELUDE

The Inescapable Light 1
Thomas Foster, piano

Kris Lennox

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Following the Announcements, we invite you to have a candle available to light as your worship leaders light the Christ Candle)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO CELEBRATION

Bill Ladd

We are wondrously made,

Fashioned with care in the womb.

We are called by name,

Sent to tear down and build up,

beckoned to pluck out and plant in love and justice.

We are endowed with gifts of every kind,

Called to be stewards of each,

that all might live in God’s kingdom of love!

*O how glorious, full of wonder is your name o'er all the earth;
God, who wrought creation's splendor, bringing suns and stars to birth!
Rapt in reverence we adore you, marveling at your mystic ways.
Humbly now we bow before you, lifting up our hearts in praise.*

*When we see the lights above us, moon and stars, your power displayed,
Who are we, that you should love us, creatures that your hand has made?
Born of earth, yet full of yearning, mixture strange of good and ill,
From your ways so often turning, yet your love does seek us still.*

*As your stewards, you have set us o'er the wonders of your hand,
As your servant, you have made us guardians over sea and land.
Soaring spire and ruined city, these our hopes and failures show.
Teach us more of human pity, that we in your image grow.*

*O how wondrous, O how glorious is your name in every land!
God, whose purpose moves before us toward the goal that you have planned.
Yours the will our hearts are seeking, conscious of our human need.
Spirit in our spirit speaking, make us yours, O God, indeed!*

OPENING PRAYER (TOGETHER)

*You have been good to us, gracious God!
For the gift of skills and talents, and for an abundant harvest in our life's
work, we pour out our gratitude.
You have dealt wondrously with us so that we have more than we need.
Dwell with us now that we may not only be inspired to share
but also prompted to work together for a more just world in which all
your children have the physical and spiritual nourishment they need,
and reasons for joy.
Amen.*

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(Reach your hands out in a gesture of blessing or place your hands together over your heart and bow in a sign of Namaste. Once worship is concluded, consider being in touch with someone you know to share Christ's peace.)

TIME FOR CHILDREN**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR SUBSTANCE****OFFERTORY MUSIC**

*Concerto in D major,
BWV 97: II. Larghetto*

Antonio Vivaldi; arr. J.S. Bach

SONG OF PRAISE *(Please feel free to use either traditional or inclusive language.)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, all heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 6:30-44

REFLECTION

“Empowered to Make a Difference”

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (TOGETHER)

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.

HYMN NO. 454

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
Beth Canterbury, soprano

Beach Spring

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, grave’s shattered door:
Gifted by you, we to you offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for serving, that your will on earth be done:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive alone in vain;
Use our talents, guide our service that our work your love proclaim.*

*Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through power your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ’s ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.*

*Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way;
From one night of anxious keeping, lead us into generous day.
Then when years on earth are over, and we’ve lived our human span,
God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our loving work began.*

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Aerith's Theme

Nobuo Uematsu

Livestreamed & Recorded Worship

In consideration of the safety of our worship leaders and to demonstrate that everyone should avoid going out into public unless absolutely necessary our worship leaders will continue leading worship from their homes for the foreseeable future. ***During this time, livestreamed and local access cable broadcasting of worship at the usual Sunday 10:30 a.m. worship time will continue as usual.***

Worship is at the very center of our life together as a congregation, as well as being at the heart of our call to proclaim and embody the good news of Jesus in the world. Church leaders remain committed to ensuring that we can do that well. Thanks in advance for your patience and understanding as we seek to do what is best for our worship leaders and right for our community while remaining a church that gives high priority to worship together as the Body of Christ. If you have feedback for our worship leaders please contact Jonathan at pastor@firstchurchnatick.org. We appreciate your input!

Post Worship Fellowship

11:30AM – 12:30 PM, on Zoom following livestream worship

Join us for an informal virtual gathering where we can greet one another, and – if the spirit strikes us – talk about the day's worship experience.

Join Zoom Meeting

Follow this link for the videocall: <https://zoom.us/j/314817921> or,

To join by phone: call in at (929) 205-6099, then enter 314817921# (and don't forget the # at the end!).

NOTE: Please be patient for the arrival of your Zoom host since he may still be transitioning from live-streaming the worship.

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 25, 2020 - NOVEMBER 1, 2020

- Sunday, October 25** 10:30 AM Virtual Worship will be live streamed on Pegasus.
11:30 AM Post Worship Fellowship via Zoom
2:00 PM Virtual Worship service will be available on the church website.
- Monday, October 26** 7:00 PM FCN Worship Task Force via Zoom
7:00 PM Knitting Group via Zoom
- Tuesday, October 27** 5:00 PM Children in Grades 5 & 6 via Zoom
- Wednesday, October 28** 12:00 PM Mid-week Connection via Zoom
7:00 PM Pub Theology via Zoom
- Friday, October 29** 1:00 PM Lunch Bunch on Natick Common
- Sunday, November 1** 10:30 AM Virtual Worship will be live streamed on Pegasus.
11:30 AM Post Worship Fellowship via Zoom
2:00 PM Virtual Worship service will be available on the church website.
5:00 PM Jr. Youth Group via Zoom
7:00 PM Sr. Youth Group via Zoom

Together, We're Making A Difference!

Our church is responding to the current health crisis in innovative ways, by continuing to gather on Sundays in live-streamed worship, and being in fellowship and shared ministry through videoconferencing. Now we're also exploring how to further live into our identity as Natick's *Digital* Front Porch. Far from putting our mission on hold, this is the time when Spirit-led people can tend the spirits of others in our community feeling anxious and isolated. There's never been a more important time to proclaim and embody the Good News of God's abiding love given to us by Jesus!

We need your generous support of our shared ministry during this time when the offering plate isn't being passed during in-person worship. The average congregation receives only 16% of its household contributions from mailed, online, or auto-bill paid giving. Most comes through the offering plate. We're pleased that 63% of our giving is now coming in alternative ways. But, while this is a terrific shift, it still means that we're only seeing about two-thirds of our regular giving from church members and friends. If you haven't done so already, here's how you can shift your in-person offering plate giving to other giving means:

- Mailing in donations to: 2 East Central Street, Natick, MA, 01760.
- Making one-time or recurring gifts online through our church website and its secure giving platform: <http://firstchurchnatick.org/give-online>.
- Setting up auto-bill pay with your bank (usually be done online), just the same way you would for paying utility bills.

The world needs what FCC Natick can be and do, particularly in this time that is challenging all of us in unprecedented ways. Thanks for doing your part to make sure we can keep our unique and vibrant ministry going at just the moment it's needed most!

PRAYER LIST

Liam Schmitt	Friends and Family of Hannah Nickerson	Grace Osgood
Isabella	Family & Friends of Nadena Wonkka	Brad Stickley
Jenna Hayes	Family & Friends of Bob McDonough	Heidi Burger
Abby Robbins	Family & Friends of Sheryl Forbes	Ed Kinley
Jane Hall	Family & Friends of Ralph Peters	Joan Hayes
Ronnie	Family & Friends of Bob DiNapoli	Natalie Friend
Kathy	Family & Friends of Bob Dutton	Connie Sullivan
Susan	Family & Friends of Gregor and Kelsey	Chris Starks
Patrick	The Rodriguez Cruz family	Barbara Dickson
Oliver	Peter Sinesi & his family	Carolyn Sarbello
Mitch	Sara Hull & her family	Cheryl Gowdy
Polina	Michelle, Catherine & Noah	Barbara Bidwell
Jean-Paul	Jen M. & family	Jayne Hayes
Randall D.	Shirley & her family	Grandma Pat
Karen	Evelyn & her family	Peter McKinney
Hailey	Jose Yadira and family	Miriam's Mom
John	Katie and her family	Tiffany Spigarolo
Don Peterson	Jean & Paul Joyce	Carolyn Aycock
Nicholas	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey	Alice Bridinger
Carole	Sari, Andrew & Tyler	Mary Cerreto
Kiara	Marcy Bailey-Adams	Faye Bishop
Aphrodite Hoge	Sibyl Waterman Haley	Pam Dotter
Joe	John & Kay Hartman	Paul Ladd
Anna Hayes	Char & Tommy Hannon	Gerry Granfors
Stephan Gordon	Bonnie & George	Mickey Nieman
Chris Gobron	The people of Santa Maria Tzeja	Don O'Meara
John Swaney	All those struggling with substances	Mark & Patty
Jamie Polk	All those waiting at the border	Amanda Sinesi
John Van Ness	Health Care Workers	Keith Jennings
Becky Sherman	Minimum Wage Workers	Donna Shermerhorn
Canasta	People feeling Isolated and Separated	Tim Porter
Solidaria	People living at home in Difficult Situations	Federico Perea
Lynne Parker	People searching for a Place to Live	Peter Cho
Margarita Ralios	The families and loved ones who have passed	Bobby Pelletier
Connie Sullivan	due to the pandemic	
	Prayers for all those affected by the fires.	
	Prayers for college students back at school and	
	facing many challenges.	

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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