

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 2020

“How should one live? Live welcoming to all.”

~ Mechthild of Madgeburg (1207-1282), Christian mystic

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.

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

PRELUDE

Sonata in B-flat major, Op. 47 No.2:

Muzio Clementi

II. Andante, quasi Allegretto

Thomas Foster, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Jonathan New

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO CELEBRATION

Sarallyn Keller, Dir. of Spiritual Vitality
& Congregational Care

We gather today, seeking the peace Christ gives.

We gather, in spite of the doubts within us.

We gather, longing for the breath of God's Spirit to give us courage and renewal.

Come, Christ Jesus, be our guest.

Through the power of your Spirit,

give us courage to live as your hospitable disciples day by day.

Let us worship the God of extravagant welcome!

HYMN

Thine is the Glory

Judas Maccabeus

*Thine is the glory risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
Thine is the glory risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

*Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For our Christ now liveth; death hath lost its sting.
Thine is the glory risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

*No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is nought without thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
Thine is the glory risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

OPENING PRAYER (TOGETHER)

*Loving Christ, as you walked beside your friends on the Emmaus road,
help us to recognize you beside us here.
Open our eyes to see you, our ears to hear you speaking,
our minds to receive the Living Word,
and our hearts to love God as deeply as you taught us.
Make us a joyful and welcoming company of your people so that with the faithful
in every place and time we may praise and honor you, Holy One.
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 OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY*Les Baricades Mistérieuses*

François Couperin

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****HYMN***Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us*

Holy Manna

*Sing of one who walks beside us and this day is living still,
One who now is closer to us than the thoughts our hearts distill,
Christ who once upon a hilltop, raised against the power of death,
Died in love so his own creatures all would know the Spirit's Breath!*

*We have walked with him as strangers through the journey of the day,
And have told him of the terror that has swept our hope away.
He has offered words of comfort, words of energy and light,
Did our hearts not blaze with-in us as he broke the bread this night?*

*Risen one, stay with us, raise us, once again the night is near.
Dine with us and share your wisdom, free our hearts from ev'ry fear.
In the calm of each new evening, in the freshness of each dawn,
If you hold us fast in friendship we will never be alone.*

SCRIPTURE READING*Luke 24:13-35***REFLECTION***"Welcoming Strangers, Welcoming God"*

Rev. Dr. Jonathan New

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

Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

Tallis' Canon

*Diverse in culture, nation, race, we come together by your grace.
God, let us be a meeting ground where hope and healing love are found.*

*God, let us be a bridge of care connecting people ev'rywhere.
Help us confront all fear and hate and lust for pow'r that separate.*

*When chasms widen, storms arise, O Holy Spirit, make us wise.
Let our resolve, like steel, be strong to stand with those who suffer wrong.*

*God, let us be a table spread with gifts of love and broken bread,
Where all find welcome, grace attends, and enemies arise as friends.*

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Sonata in B-flat major, Op. 47 No.2:
I. Allegro con brio*

Muzio Clementi

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, live streamed 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 livestreamed 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.

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

To join by phone only: call in at (929) 205-6099, then enter the following meeting ID when/if prompted: 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 recording the service at 11:30!

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 26 ~ MAY 3, 2020

- Sunday, April 26** 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, April 27** 10:00 AM Spirit Connect
7:00PM Knitting Circle via Zoom
- Tuesday, April 28** 3:00 PM Spirit Boost
7:00PM Coordinating Council via Zoom
- Wednesday, April 29** 7:00PM Cabin Fever Theology via Zoom
-
- Sunday, May 3** 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.

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.
- Considering making at least some portion of your contribution earlier in the year if you are an annual or semi-annual giver.

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	Family & Friends of Mike Keedy	Grace Osgood
Isabella	Family & Friends of Bill Mayer	Brad Stickley
Rick	Family & Friends of Bruce Wharton	Chris Gobron
Stephen	Family & Friends of Bob McDonald	Richard Keller
David	Family & Friends of Jack Gobron	Heidi Burger
Irene	Family & Friends of Fernando Morales	Ed Kinley
Juan Mercado	Gonzalez	Bob Steen
Gerry Carlson	Family & Friends of Jeff Holgate	Joan Hayes
Carolyn Kennan	Family & Friends of Charlotte Figi	Natalie Friend
Jack Gobron	Family & Friends of Robert Nason	Connie Sullivan
Jenna Hayes	Peter Sinesi & his family	Chris Starks
Brad Jennings	Michelle, Catherine & Noah	Barbara Dickson
Abby Robbins	Ellen, Jim & daughter	Carolyn Sarbello
Jennifer	Jen M. & family	Cheryl Gowdy
Jane Hall	Bryan & his unit	Barbara Bidwell
Regan Lynch	Lily Dreher & her family	Jayne Hayes
Brian	Shirley & her family	Kim Palmer
Ronnie	Evelyn & her family	Grandma Pat
Kathy	Judge Shelley Joseph	Peter McKinney
Savannah	Jean, Kathy & Paul Joyce	Miriam's Mom
Allison	Chris Leigh Manuell	Tiffany Spigarolo
Susan	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey	Carolyn Aycock
Patrick	Sari, Andrew & Tyler	Alice Bridinger
Oliver	Jose & family	Mary Cerreto
Alex	Yandow family	Faye Bishop
Emmett	Marcy Bailey-Adams	Pam Dotter
Mitch	Sibyl Waterman Haley	Paul Ladd
Polina	John & Kay Hartman	John Sullivan
Amelia	Gigi Sniffin	Gerry Granfors
Jean-Paul	The people of Santa Maria Tzeja	Char Hannon
Randall D.	All those struggling with substances	Mickey Nieman
Karen	All those waiting at the border	Don O'Meara
Bonnie & George	Health Care Workers	Stuart
Hailey	Minimum Wage Workers	Elizabeth Godrick
John	People feeling Isolated and Separated	Mark & Patty
Don Peterson	People living at home in Difficult Situations	Christopher Gobron
Nicholas	People searching for a Place to Live	Amanda Sinesi
Carole	The families and loved ones who have passed	Mo Carriker
Kiara	due to the pandemic	Eric Carriker
Amanda		Keith Jennings
Aphrodite Hoge		
Juan Mercado		

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Reverend Dr. Jonathan New

Interim Minister

802-498-4713

pastor@FirstChurchNatick.org

The Reverend Dr. John Weagraff

Outreach Minister

Sarallyn Keller

Director of Spiritual Vitality & Congregational Care

508-740-3134

sarallyn@FirstChurchNatick.org

Peg Waters

Office Administrator

admin@FirstChurchNatick.org

Thomas Foster

Minister of Music

Teresa Iodice

Preschool Director

508-655-2171

preschool@FirstChurchNatick.org

Michelle May

Financial Assistant

financefcc@FirstChurchNatick.org

Alex Villarejo

Custodian

alex@FirstChurchNatick.org

2 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760

508-653-0971

admin@FirstChurchNatick.org