

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

SERMON

"Love Around the Backstretch"

Rev. Will

QUIET TIME FOR REFLECTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing

Black-covered NCH #259

*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Tokkata

J.P. Sweelinck (1562-1612)

*PH indicates Pilgrim Hymnal (red) NCH indicates New Century Hymnal (black)

*Those who are able please stand

Head-sets for the hearing impaired & large print bulletins are available from the deacons.
We encourage you to use the nametags available in the Vestibule.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN WINCHESTER, UCC

21 Church Street

Winchester, MA 01890

781-729-9180

An Open and Affirming Congregation
The Congregation, Ministers to The World

Rev. William Burhans, Lead Pastor

Rev. Judith B. Arnold, Associate Pastor

Ms. Kathleen Zagata, RN, MS, CS, Minister of Cong'l Health & Wellness

Ms. Jane Ring Frank, Minister of Music & Worship Arts

Mr. Ben Pulaski, Minister of Faith Formation: Children & Youth

Sarah Marino, Office Manager

Mr. Bradley Ross, Sexton

Tyler Campbell, Assistant Sexton

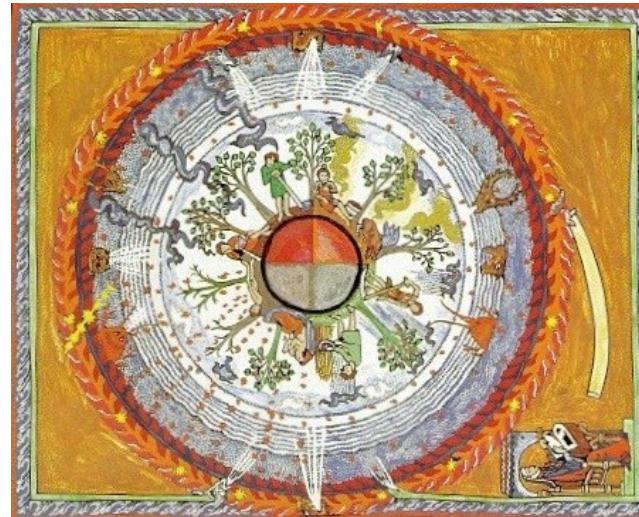
Mr. Jeffrey Mead, Organist

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Orth, Pastoral Counselor (Affiliate)

FCCW www.fcc-winchester.org; MA Conference www.macucc.org; Nat'l UCC www.ucc.org

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First Congregational Church in Winchester

Ascension Sunday

May 8, 2016 Worship at 10 AM

Words for meditation and preparation: "The religious searcher should be a diver through the deeps of ancient wisdom, seeking to bring up to the surface those concepts that can illuminate life today. Not all truth will be discovered in what is to come; some must be recalled from what has been forgotten." – David J. Wolpes

GATHERING MUSIC

Ricercar

Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Judy Arnold

A MOMENT OF SILENCE/PASSING THE PEACE

PRELUDE

Flute solo

Daniel Pinkham (1923-2006)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

We are gathered in the presence of the risen Christ who remains with us forever through the Holy Spirit.

When we abide in Christ love, joy, and peace, grow.

May our time of worship together root us in Christ's love that we may bear these fruits with all God's people.

With the faithful of every nation we sing: blessing, glory, thanks, and honor be to God forever and ever, Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Bring Many Names

Black-covered New Century Hymnal #11

*MORNING PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

**Undisturbed by the many voices and the many tasks that tend to distract us,
we draw near to You, O God. We realize that it is not You who withdraws from
us but it is we who too often separate ourselves from You.
Let us hear again the strains of that covenant that you have made with us
through Jesus Christ, a covenant that increases our compassion
and desire for justice. Having been generously forgiven and received by You,
we will be generous in our dealings with one another.
Having received your grace, we offer one another the benefit of the doubt.
Having heard your loving word, we are slow to deal out words of judgment
and quick to share words of kindness.
Having heard you say "be not afraid" we acknowledge our fears
and do not let them determine or deter our actions.
Having experienced your transformative Spirit,
we first look to how we can change rather than how others must change.
Hear these intentions, O God, and strengthen us to live lives worthy
of Your Son as we pray the way he taught us:**

**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 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**

*AN ACT OF PRAISE

The Gloria Patri

(Please use words that are most meaningful to you)

**Glory be to the Creator and to the Christ and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be;
World without end, amen, amen.**

TIME FOR THE YOUNG

TESTIMONY

THE OFFERTORY

Offertory Anthem

Christ, whose glory fills the skies [1967]

Music: Harold Darke (1888 – 1976)

Words: Charles Wesley (1707 – 88)

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true the only light,
Sun of Righteousness arise, Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.
Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
Joyless is the day's return, Till thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
Visit then this soul of mine, Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me Radiancy Divine, Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display, Shining to the perfect day.

Ben Pulaski

Doxology

(Please use words that are most meaningful to you)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

NCH 780

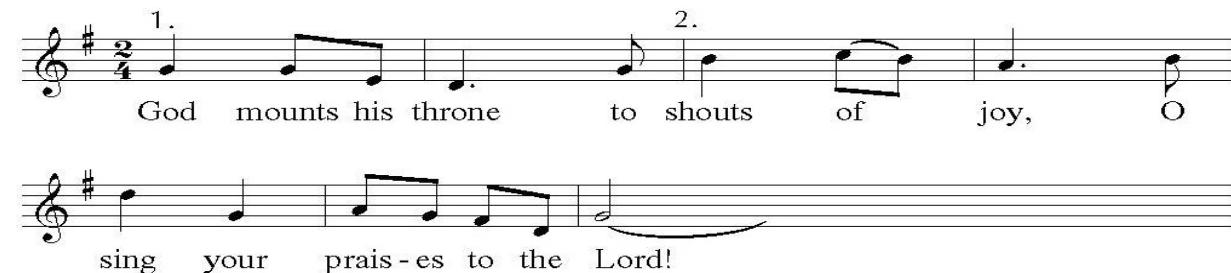
*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Judy

SCRIPTURE

Liturgist: Bruce Lauterwasser

Psalm 47



**SUNG REFRAIN : God mounts his throne to shouts of joy;
O sing your praises to the Lord!**

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.
He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.
He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

SUNG REFRAIN

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.
God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.
The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

SUNG REFRAIN

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Sanctuary Flowers

Today's Chancel flowers are given to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Ted Blanch by the Roy-Thompson family.

Bulletin Cover Image

The cover image comes from Hildegard von Bingen's (1089-1179), Universal Man: Illuminations from the Book of Divine Works. Hildegard was a highly creative mystic and Benedictine Abbess who undertook in 1135 a series of **visionary symbolic paintings** in mandala-form. While she did not make the illustrations herself, it is thought that she oversaw their production.

Second Wednesday Bible Study

May 11

Come and join your friends from the congregation for an informal Bible Study. We meet in the Health Ministry Office at 7:00 p.m. and end promptly at 8:30. We are continuing Job. We are at Chapter 32. Job is a familiar story – although we learn that patience wasn't one of Job's virtues after all. We also learn a lot about the human drama and our relationship with God. No reading ahead required, no homework assignments, just fellowship, companionship and scripture reading in a small group setting. Hope to see you Wednesday.

The Philadelphia Project 11th Hour

During April break, 11 youth and 4 adults headed down to Philadelphia to work with The Philadelphia Project. On Youth Sunday, May 22nd, the youth who went will tell of their experience that week with the organization. During coffee hour that day, we have a special guest from The Philadelphia Project who will be explaining exactly all the things they do. I encourage all of you to attend and hear the amazing work they do with all ages. The youth of our church will be raising money and collecting things that they are in need of all next year. We were looking to find one organization to spend most of our time and energy helping and found it!

Church Events This Week (May 8-15)

SUNDAY	Mother's Day		
	10:00	AM	Worship
	10:00	AM	J2A Class 9th & 10th Grades
	10:00	AM	Rite 13 7th & 8th graders
	10:15	AM	Stepping Stones (Church School)
	4:00	PM	Girl Scouts
	7:30	PM	FORUM (High School)
MONDAY	7:00	PM	Carillonneers
TUESDAY	7:30	PM	Mission & Outreach Ministry
	7:30	PM	Boy Scouts
WEDNESDAY	8:30	AM	Men's Coffee & Conversation
	10:00	AM	Ministry Team Meeting
	10:00	AM	FAN Toddler Playgroup
	6:30	PM	Health Ministry
	7:00	PM	Bible Study
	7:30	PM	Facilities Ministry
	7:30	PM	Personnel Ministry
THURSDAY	7:30	PM	Choir Rehearsal
SATURDAY	11:00	AM	Memorial Service for Marilyn White
	4:00	PM	Jazz Vespers
SUNDAY	Pentecost		
	Deadline for the June Spire		
	8:15	AM	Celebration of Service Breakfast
	10:00	AM	Worship New Member Sunday
	10:00	AM	J2A Class 9th & 10th Grades
	10:00	AM	Rite 13 7th & 8th graders
	10:15	AM	Stepping Stones (Church School)
	11:30	AM	Leadership Team Meeting
	11:30	AM	Purpose Forum
	4:00	PM	Girl Scouts
	4:00	PM	Sounds of Grace
	7:30	PM	FORUM (High School)

The Dwelling Place needs volunteers for

Saturday, May 21st!

We are looking for **4-6 volunteers** to prepare and serve a meal for about 20 people at the Dwelling Place on **Saturday, May 21st**. The Dwelling Place is a collaboration of area churches that prepares and serves meals at the United Methodist Church in Woburn for individuals and families in need. Our FCC is responsible for preparing and serving the meal on the third Saturday of each month.

Can you and your family or friends help?



- Volunteers can be adults and children.
- Serving time is only 2 hours -- from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- The food is simple and easy to prepare.

If you want to serve but are not sure you can prepare the food, we can help with that.

To sign up, please contact your FCC Dwelling Place coordinators:

Linda Alexander (617.763.0650) lgalexander@comcast.net

Lisa Loughlin (781.346.1241) lisa3abp@aol.com

Rite 13 Ceremony

On May 22nd during the service, our 7th and 8th graders will be going through the Rite 13 Ceremony. During the ceremony, we as the church recognize them as beginning their journey into adulthood. One piece of this is getting advice for their future from the congregation. Many of you have probably written advice for the other classes (or you are just naturally good at giving advice!). I will be collecting all of the advice and putting it into a booklet for the youth. If you would like to participate by giving your greatest gems of knowledge that you have learned over the years, you can fill out the form down in Chidley Hall during coffee hour or email ben@fcc-winchester.org

People We are Praying for...

Names

Jessica Brand

Martha George

Rev. Jena Roy

John Sawyer

the family of Eugene Sommerfeld,

friend of Frank Willwerth

The family of Elaine Valende

Purpose

for healing

for strength of body & spirit

for a miraculous cure

for healing

in their grief

in their grief

Please let the Deacons or Ministry Team know if you have someone to add or remove from this list.

Summer Preachers

A highlight of our summer worship tradition is the preaching. Members of our congregation share faith experiences and their interpretation of scripture with us. Summer worship provides an opportunity to get to know each other better and to deepen our faith by hearing about the struggles and triumphs of those who share the pews throughout the rest of the year. These preaching spots are **open to anyone** in the congregation. Without exception, these sermons have been received with appreciation and encouragement. Perhaps you have a message to share. If you do, call or talk with Judy and we'll find a date that works

Purpose Forum May 15: Town Day!

At your suggestion, the next Purpose Forum will take place for just a half hour after worship on May 15. There will be one agenda item: to plan the FCCW presence at Town Day in early June. Last year we offered "Rest, Respite, & Restrooms:" free lemonade, access to restrooms, and a shady spot to picnic. What are your suggestions for improvements? Please join us and share your ideas! Everyone is invited.