

Order of Worship: Cantata Sunday

THE WORLD BELOVED: A BLUEGRASS MASS [2007]

Music by Carol Barnett (b. 1949); Libretto by Marisha Chamberlain (b. 1952); scored for Chorus, Soloists and Bluegrass Band: Kate Goldstein, fiddle; August Watters, mandolin; Sven Larson, bass; Larry Unger, banjo; Tim Foley, guitar; Susan K. Navien, Peter Owens, Karen Lauterwasser, Elizabeth Page, Cindy Wankowicz, Carol Weir, Lucy Sanders, Bruce Lauterwasser, soloists

Prelude

Art Thou Weary? (Bluegrass instrumental)

Ballad: Refrain: *They say God loved the world so dear He set aside His crown...*
Susan K. Navien, soloist

Welcome

Rev. Will Burhans

A Time of Silence

Gathering Prayer

(a reinterpretation of the Lord's Prayer based on the original Aramaic)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure,
spare us and from the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever,
Amen!**

Kyrie: Mercy!

A Time for the Young-The Story of Pentecost - Acts 2:1-13

Ben Pulaski

Ballad: First Verse: *A child walked forth on Eden's way, a child stretched out her hand...*
Karen Lauterwasser, soloist

Gloria: *Glory be to God on high, who launched the sunlight, loosed the rain...*

Sermon

"This is Us"

Rev. Will Burhans

Ballad: Second Verse & Refrain: *Adam, he labored, Eve, she toiled...But they say God loved the world so dear...*

Elizabeth Page & Cindy Wankowicz, soloists

Credo: *Oh, I do believe a place awaits us far across the Jordan and when we reach those mossy banks, we'll cast aside our oars...*

Peter Owens & Susan K. Navien, soloists

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Judy Arnold

Agnus Dei: *Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us...*

Offertory

Rev. Will Burhans

Sanctus: *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts...*

Benediction (from the Carmina Gadelica)

**God be in our heads and in our understanding;
God be in our eyes and in our looking;
God be in our mouths and in our speaking;
God be in our hearts, and in our pondering;
God be at our end and at our departing.**

Conclusion: *They say God loved the world so dear She set aside Her crown...*
Susan K. Navien, soloist

Benediction: *Blessing be upon your heads. Bless the living, bless the dead. Blessing...*
Carol Weir, Lucy Sanders, Bruce Lauterwasser

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Today's Worship Service

Sanctuary Flowers

Today's Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of deceased members and friends of this church.

Meet Our Church

First Congregational Church in Winchester, UCC, An Open and Affirming Congregation
21 Church Street, Winchester, MA 01890 781-729-9180 www.fcc-winchester.org
facebook.com/fccwuucc Text FCCW to 22828 to join our email list

We are a Christ-centered, nurturing community: growing in faith, serving in love, welcoming all with joy.

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 Congregational Health & Wellness
Ms. Jane Ring Frank, Minister of Music & Worship Arts
Mr. Ben Pulaski, Minister of Faith Formation: Children & Youth
Ms. Sarah Marino, Office Manager
Mr. Tyler Campbell, Sexton
Mr. Jeffrey Mead, Organist
Mr. William Lewis, Custodian
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Orth, Pastoral Counselor (Affiliate)

May 20, 2018
Pentecost Sunday
10:00 Worship Service

Welcome!

We are happy you have joined us today for worship. We hope that in the coming hour of quiet, song, prayer, sacred scripture, and communal gathering, you will awaken more fully to God's presence in your life and the world around us.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located down the stairs as you first enter the front doors of the church.

Accessibility

We now have an inductive hearing loop for those whose hearing aids have Telecoil (ask your audiologist). Listening devices are also available in the back. For our coffee hour in Chidley Hall, an elevator is located out the doors to the right of the front chancel area and down the hall. Please ask a greeter if you need assistance.

Childcare

Children are always welcome in the sanctuary! We appreciate the sounds of little ones among us. If you'd prefer, there are trained caregivers in our nursery on the floor beneath the sanctuary. Ask a greeter if you need help finding it.

Family Room

There is also a comfortable room with water, sofas, chairs, carpet and a video link to the service for when you need more room to attend to your family. It is located just outside the doors to the right of the front chancel area.

Children (Stepping Stones) and Youth Church School

Classes for children and youth in pre-k through 12th grade are taught during worship. Families begin the worship service together in the sanctuary. Children are then invited to join us at the front (if they are comfortable) for the Time for the Young. Afterwards, the children and youth are led to their classrooms by their teachers.

Get connected!

Please tell us about yourself and/or request a prayer by filling out a Welcome/Prayer Request Card found in each pew and place it in the offering plate when it passes. We look forward to getting to know you at Coffee Hour, held downstairs immediately following the service.

People for Whom We Are Praying ...

Shannon Gilmour and family	In her grief for the passing of her father
Leonore Eforo	In her grief at the passing of her mother
Jessica McArdle and Family	Successful surgery for Stage 1 Breast Cancer
Family of Emily Eddy, Mike Redding's sister	Comfort during their time of grief
Michael Cantella, Regina Campbell's father	Healing from heart valve surgery
The Troisi Family	In their grief at the loss of Marcie's brother and Nick's father
Diane	For her surgery for cancer and her recovery
Lisa and Justin Loughlin	In their grief
Lucy Sanders	Continued healing & direction for Arthur & my future
Martha George	For courage and strength
Jessica Brand	For healing

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

News & Upcoming Events

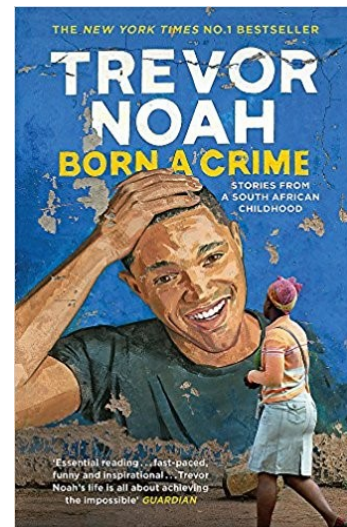
NCIS: New-Comers Inquiry Session **Today 11:30 AM in Tucker Room**

Our second session for those interested in membership will be held today after worship in the Tucker Room. Please feel free to join us even if you weren't able to attend the first session.

Ruth Group Meets this Sunday May 20th, 7-9 pm

Please join us to discuss *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah at the home of Natalie Roche, 124 Highland Ave Winchester. "The book is essential reading not only because it is a personal story of survival, leavened with insight and wit, but because it does more to expose apartheid-its legacy, its pettiness, its small-minded stupidity and its damage-than any other recent history book or academic text." -The Guardian

All women of the church and community are welcome whether or not they have read the book and new participants are always welcome. Decaf coffee & tea and simple desserts are offered by the host. Contact this year's co-coordinators - Anne Hoenicke and Kaye Nash - with any questions you may have and to figure out possible carpools



Summer Worship – Preachers and Musicians

Summer services begin on June 24. They start at 10 a.m., are held in the sanctuary and last for about 45 minutes. The shortness in length doesn't reflect their power. Some of the most moving messages are shared in the summer when congregation members do the majority of the preaching. It is a great experience to hear from fellow church members. And a wonderful gift from those who say 'yes'. Please think about whether you might have a message to share with your community. Because the choir takes a well deserved summer break, we also invite congregation members to share their musical talents. Todd Gordon of our sister Second Congregational Church plays the service music – hymns, etc. He is also happy to lend support to those who wish to play an instrument or sing. Feel a call to either of these offerings? Have questions or want to be talked into it? Email Judy (jarnoldfcw@verizon.net) and we'll find a date that works.

Spring Fellowship Gathering **Wednesday, May 30th at 2 pm in the Palmer Room**

Open to *all of our members and families*, you are invited to join us for an afternoon of music, refreshments and fellowship as we enjoy the Sounds of Grace Choir. The Ministry Team will serve the refreshments and provide an update on the youth and adult mission trips. Health Ministry is pleased to host the event and ask that you RSVP - YES to 781-729-9180 ext.: 106.

Boston Gay Pride Parade **June 9**

The Christian Church unfortunately continues to be an institution in many places around our country and world that fosters misunderstanding and mistreatment of our LGBTQ brothers and sisters, interpreting God's word in scripture as unequivocally condemning homosexuality. 17 years ago when the First Congregational Church in Winchester voted to be an Open and Affirming Congregation we made it unequivocally clear that we do not accept this perspective as true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and instead we "welcome all people - people of all races and ages, mental and physical abilities, gender or sexual orientation, from different backgrounds of economic class, ethnicity, and religious tradition - to join us in worship and to participate in the full life and ministry of our church." This is why for many years now we have had members of our church walk in the Gay Pride Parade in Boston, to make our stance public and clear. Given where many other churches land on this issue, it's particularly important that we show up! So please consider representing our church on Saturday, June 9 and join Rev. Will, and others as we walk in solidarity with members of the LGBTQ community through the streets of Boston. We will attend the Pride Interfaith Service at 11 am at Old South Church and then walk in the parade at 12.

“To bring the solemnity of the classical choir-based mass together with the downhome sparkle of bluegrass—now there’s an assignment. My highest hope is that listeners coming from one tradition— classical or bluegrass—and perhaps dubious about the other, might discover something new and wonderful in the combination, as I have.”
(Carol Barnett, composer, *The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass*)

CANTATA SUNDAY
May 20, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

THE WORLD BELOVED: A BLUEGRASS MASS

This morning, the Choir presents composer Carol Barnett’s and librettist Marisha Chamberlain’s *The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass* - a joyful affirmation of life, expressed in sophisticated choral sound and jubilant bluegrass harmonies. The work is a brilliant and exhilarating blend of the classical mass, modern choral sophistication, insightful poetry and traditional bluegrass instrumentation. The piece was premiered in 2007 by bluegrass band Monroe Crossing and professional chorus VocalEssence under the direction of Philip Brunelle.

Traditional Latin Mass texts form the basis of the lyrics, interspersed with Chamberlin’s evocative poetry. She writes, “Bluegrass is more than a sound. The lyrics of so many bluegrass songs display an unpretentious, earthy philosophy that is easy to sing and easy to understand. Love is the major theme, and although secular romantic love is huge in bluegrass, so is the love of God, and the Gospel tradition. This launches our *Bluegrass Mass* as an earthy and immediate story of love between Creator and creation.” Chamberlin takes traditional texts and modernizes them, and in a sense, Americanizes them, by using folk-like verses to unify the entire work. She takes liberties with the text and, in so doing, interprets traditional Christian texts in a universal way.

Foundationally, the piece alternates between “ballads” (in which the story of God’s love reads like a folk song) and the traditional elements of the Catholic Mass: Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Credo, and Agnus Dei.

Some of these traditional movements remain in the original Latin and Greek: “Kyrie” (Lord have mercy...), “Sanctus” (Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts...), and “Agnus Dei” (Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world...). Both “Gloria” and “Credo” are daringly and beautifully retooled by Chamberlin with new words and new meaning. As a structural device, the *Bluegrass Mass* is bookended by a repeated refrain: “they say God loved the world so dear, He cast aside his crown and cloaked Himself in human shape.”

Perhaps the larger theme of the work is found at the heart of the “Credo” movement. In it, the traditional Credo text (“I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth...”), perhaps the backbone of our Christian faith, is unexpectedly replaced by an all-embracing, justice-minded theology:

“Oh, I do believe a resting place awaits us, 'cross the Jordan.
We’ll toss our coats, throw off our hats and take the seat of ease.
And it’s not the seat of riches and it’s not the seat of power,
Row on, row on, and no one goes alone.”

Near the close of the piece, the refrain returns, and God’s gender is recast as female: “They say God loved the world so dear She set aside Her crown and cloaked Herself in human shape.” A poignant Benediction brings us to the end of the Mass. In it, composer and poet remind us that life is an ever-evolving blessing - “and may you embrace God in guise of human grace.”

We have enjoyed bringing this festive and meaningful work to life. With the support and leadership of our section leaders, Susan Navien and Peter Owens, our many soloists, our rollicking band and our keyboardist Jeffrey Mead, the choir has worked faithfully to bring this enduringly beautiful and prayerful piece to life.

THIS MORNING’S MUSICAL OFFERING has been funded, in part, by a generous donation from Cindy Mutterperl in memory of her husband and long-time church member, Dr. John Mutterperl, as well as the Wallace and Reserve Music Funds. We are so grateful.

COMPLETE LIBRETTO

adapted and written by Marisha Chamberlain

Ballad Refrain:

They say God loved the world so dear
He set aside His crown
And cloaked Himself in human shape;
They say that He came down.
And dwelt awhile among us here.
He came on down.

Kyrie:

Mercy!
Oh, Kyrie! Have mercy!
Oh, Christe! Mercy, Oh mercy, eleison, eleison.
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison,
Kyrie eleison, have mercy on creation!
Christe eleison, have mercy on our souls!

Ballad, First Verse:

A Child walked forth on Eden's way,
A Child stretched out her hand.
O, may I taste the apple there
And take to understand
The fruit of knowledge in my mouth,
And know of God firsthand?

Gloria:

Glory be to God on high,
Who launched the sunlight, loosed the rain,
Who scattered stars across the sky,
Who piled the mountains, rolled the plains,
Who spilled the rivers and the seas.
Oh, Glory be, oh, Glory be.

Glory be to God below,
For feather, fur, for scale and fin,
For vine up-twisting, blossom's fire,
For muscle, sinew, nerve and skin
And every feature set aglow.
Oh, Glory be to God below.

Oh, Glory be for peace on earth,
And prayerful be the human heart
That has required a Savior's birth
To make of earth heav'n's counterpart,
So strife might stop and warring cease.
Oh, Glory be for peace, Oh, be for peace.

Oh, Glory be the generous Hand
Who left us to our work and care,
Who gave us only few commands
But that we help each other bear
Life's burdens, pain and suffering ease.
Oh Glory be, oh, Glory be.

Ballad: Second Verse & Refrain

Adam, he labored, Eve, she toiled,
And many children bore,
And sometimes all was fruitfulness
And sometimes seasons wore
Them down to dust and emptiness
And hunger at the door.

But they say God loved the world so dear
He set aside His crown
And cloaked Himself in human shape;
They say that He came down,
And dwelt awhile among us here.
He came on down.

Credo:

Oh, I do believe a place awaits us far across the Jordan
And when we reach those mossy banks, we'll cast aside our oars.
Row on, row on, we're crossing River Jordan,
Row on, row on, and no one goes alone.

Oh I do believe a place awaits us high above the mountains,
And when we reach that highest peak, we'll spread our wings and soar.
Climb on, climb on, we're climbing Jacob's Ladder,
Climb on, climb on, and no one goes alone.

Oh, I do believe a resting place awaits us, 'cross the Jordan,
We'll toss our coats, throw off our hats and take the seat of ease.
And it's not the seat of riches and it's not the seat of power.
Row on, row on, and no one goes alone.

Agnus Dei:

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
Dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,
Grant us peace.*

Sanctus:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus.
Dominus Deus Sabaoth;
Pleni sunt coeli et terra Gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, Holy, Holy.
Lord, God of hosts;
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the Highest.*

Conclusion:

They say God loved the world so dear,
She set aside her crown,
And cloaked Herself in human shape;
They say that She came down,
And dwelt awhile among us here.
She came on down.

Benediction:

Blessing be upon your heads.
Bless the living, bless the dead.
Blessing be upon you, my people.

Blessing so that you may go.
Lightly through this world of woe.
Blessing be upon you, my people.

Blessings, and may you embrace.
God in guise of human grace.
Blessings now and forever.