

Welcome to First Congregational Church



Scipio Moorhead, *Phillis Wheatley*, 1773

This engraving by Moorhead, an enslaved African-American artist from Boston, was used as the frontispiece for Phillis Wheatley's "Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral". This book caused a sensation, as Wheatley's intelligence and creativity, as an enslaved young woman was questioned and interrogated. One of Wheatley's poems is dedicated to Moorhead, whom she identifies as a "young painter". Wheatley's poems celebrate her "rescue" from Africa and her introduction to Christianity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Question to Ponder - for Sunday, October 27th: "Do not all the achievements of a poet's predecessors and contemporaries rightfully belong to him? Why should he shrink from picking flowers where he finds them? Only by making the riches of others our own do we bring anything great into being." - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832 C.E.)

All Saints Day: Next Sunday, November 3rd, we will be celebrating our annual All Saint's ritual in which we lift up the names of *those who have died in the past year*, both members of First Church and, if you chose, those of family and friends of the congregation. Please send the names you would like lifted up to Kathy Akerman (secretary@concordfirstchurch.org) by Thursday, October 31st

Racial Justice Steering Team is meeting **Tuesday, November 12th** on ZOOM only, at 10am. The book we are reading is *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks.

Emergency Bucket Challenge Item for September

One pair of work gloves (Cotton with leather palm or all leather.) Please drop them off by October 31st.



Musicians' Flea Market - Saturday, November 2nd: We need volunteers to help make this event a success. Visit bit.ly/flea2024 to see the volunteer slots available and sign up!

Bakers Needed

We will be selling baked goods at the musicians' flea market. If you would like to donate something, please follow these guidelines:

Items should be wrapped for individual sale. *For example, 2-3 cookies or brownies in a single zip-lock bag, One large brownie wrapped in Saran wrap, etc.* Items will be priced at either \$1 or \$2 depending on how big they are.

Please include a single notecard with what your items are and whether or not they contain nuts. *For example: "Blonde brownies - No nuts."*

Deliver baked goods to the church on Friday 11/1 between 8:00 and 11:00 AM, or on Saturday 11/2 before 9:00 AM.

Welcome to First Congregational Church
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
Rev. Emilia Halstead
October 27 2024

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: Brightest and Best (Public Domain) Annie Papinsick

Setting Intentions for Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP: (written by John O'Donohue)

While the beauty of nature awakens and fills our senses, the Eros of the human mind always desires to make a deeper voyage and explore the forms in which Beauty dwells among us. It is one of the lovely ironies that our thinking about Beauty has also revealed much about the beauty of thought itself.

Thought is an amazing thing: it can be a mirror, a lens, a bridge, a wall, a window, a ladder, or a house.

There is nothing in the world that has the cutting edge of a new thought. It is fascinating to watch the clearance it can make and the new life it can bring.

Often, without knowing it, we are waiting for a new idea to come and cut us free from our entanglement.

COMING INTO THE INVISIBLE EMBRACE OF BEAUTY: (written by O'Donohue & Yeats)

"Thought is more penetrating than light, it can travel further inwards to create an intimate world within the mind. This is at once the terror and the beauty of thought. Indeed, beauty itself can enter us as a thought. In his poem 'The Arrow' Yeats says:

I thought of your beauty, and this arrow

Made out of a wild thought, is in my marrow.

OFFERING OUR MOMENTS OF BEAUTY

SONG: #163 Many Are the Lightbeams

Many Are the Lightbeams, Olle Widestrand, David Lewis

Tune: © 1974, Olle Widestrand Text: Anders Frostenson, © 1972, AF-Foundation Hymns and Song, Verbum; English tr. by David Lewis

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SONG: #166 Immortal Love, Forever Full (Public Domain)

1 Immortal Love for ever full, forever flowing free,
Forever shared, forever whole, a never-ebbing sea.

2 Our outward lips confess the Name all other names above;
Love only knows from where it came and comprehends God's love.

3 We may not climb the heavenly steeps to bring the Sovereign down;
In vain we search the lowest deeps, for One no depths can drown.

4 But warm, sweet, tender, even yet this One our help will be;
For faith has still its Olivet, and love its Galilee.

5 The healing of Christ's seamless dress still soothes our beds of pain;
We touch it in life's throng and press, and we are whole again.

6 Through Christ our earliest prayers are said with words we scarce can frame;
The last low whispers of our dead still echo with Christ's name.

Global Ministries Weekly Prayers: Japan

(Mission Moment and Prayer from ARI Public Relations, Adapted from <https://ari.ac.jp/en/news/>)

Mission Moment from Japan

Prayers with Japan

Dear God, thank you for the opportunities we have to encounter you along our journeys. We give thanks for the opportunities that participants in the Asian Rural Institute have to travel throughout Japan to learn from other farmers and communities during their year of training.

We pray for ARI's participants as they open up to learning new ways of living and having healthy and fruitful relationships with the land and with each other. We pray for all those who give their time and expertise to meet with ARI during its study tours.

Bless all the churches and individuals in the United Church of Christ in Japan and around the world who support ARI's mission to build an environmentally healthy, just, and peaceful world.

We give thanks for your creation and for all those who farm the land. From the rural agricultural cooperatives of Japan to all the local communities in Asia, Africa, and the Americas that send participants to study at ARI. We ask your blessings on all those who seek sustainability and who sow peace from the soil. In the name of Jesus, we pray, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Response to each prayer:)

God of Thought,

Receive our prayers.

PASTORAL PRAYER (adapted from prayer written by Christine Longhurst)

LORD'S PRAYER

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 and ever. Amen.

Sung Amen:

This Is My Song

This is My Song, Lloyd Stone, Jean Sibelius

Text: © 1962, Lorenz Publishing

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This is my Song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.

This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

Offertory

INVITATION

GRATITUDE MUSIC

O Loving Founder of the Stars
(Public Domain)

Annie Papinsick

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (written by Joanna Harader)

God, whose giving knows no ending:

we offer up the treasure that you have entrusted to us;

we offer up the skills and time that you have graciously given to us;

we offer up ourselves in service and praise.

Receive these gifts by your grace.

**Multiply and use them through the power of the Holy Spirit
to accomplish Christ's work of love in the world. Amen.**

CLOSING SONG: #158 O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright (Public Domain)

1) O Morning Star, how clear and bright,
your beam shines forth in truth and light!
My Sovereign meek and lowly!

O Root of Jesse, Promised One,
my God and Ruler, you have won
my heart to serve you solely!

You are holy,
great and glorious, all-victorious,
Rich in blessing, rule and might o'er all possessing.

2) Come heavenly Brightness, Light divine,
and deep within my heart now shine,
there make yourself an altar!

Fill me with joy and strength to be
your member, joined eternally
in love that cannot falter;

Longing for you,
does possess me; turn and bless me;
Here in sadness, eye and heart long for your gladness.

SETTING OUR INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

GREATEST COMMANDMENT

BENEDICTION & SENDING: (written by Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel)

Postlude

The Lamplighter

Annie Papinsick