

Welcome to First Congregational Church



Hay Gatherers
Edward Mitchell Bannister, 1893

Bannister was a prominent member of the African-American cultural community in Boston and Providence, RI, and an outspoken abolitionist. He is one of the founders of the Rhode Island School of Design. His work is typical of late 19th c. landscape artists who follow the “Barbizon” school of painting (they are interested in creating a mood, and general impression of a scene) and he received criticism later in his life for not speaking more directly about racial issues in his work. However, this painting seems to comment on history of slavery in South County, Rhode Island, as these field hands are Black .

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Get to Know You Question" for Sunday, November 24th: If "Peace" were a place, what would it look like and why?

Racial Justice Steering Team is meeting on Tuesday, December 10th on Zoom only, at 10am. The book we are reading is *James: A Novel* by Percival Everett.

Page Turners for November: We are reading *How the Light Gets In: And Other Headlong Epiphanies* by Brian Doyle. The discussion will take place on November 25th from 2-3pm in the Chapel at Wesley UMC and on Zoom.

Emergency Bucket Challenge Item for November
20-28 count heavy duty (or contractor type) 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll.

Please drop them off in the chapel by November 30th.



Welcome to First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
Thanksgiving Sunday—November 24, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude For the Beauty of the Earth (Public Domain) Annie Papinsick

SETTING OUR INTENTIONS FOR WORSHIP

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

The Medieval Mind recognized that while we can participate in beauty, we can never possess it. If we attempt to own beauty, we corrupt it. When soiled or damaged, beauty can turn negative and destructive.

It is ultimately a sacred manifestation and should not be trespassed on by our lower hungers. In the presence of beauty, we are called to be gracious and worthy.

Bringing Ourselves into God's Presence: (written by John O'Donohue)

Beauty makes presence shine. It brings out elegance and dignity and has a confidence, an effortlessness, that is not labored or forced. This fluency and ease of presence is ultimately rooted below the surface in surer depths. In a sense, the question of Beauty is about a way of looking at things. It is everywhere; and everything has beauty. It is merely a matter of discovering it.

SHARING OUR OFFERINGS OF BEAUTY

SONG: #421 We Gather Together (Public Domain)

1 We gather together to ask for God's blessing;
to live in community, seeking God's will.

We come now, as sisters and brothers, confessing
the sins that divide and the wrong in us still.

2 Beside us, forgiving, enabling, sustaining,
you call us, O Savior, to life that is new,
You draw us away from self-centered complaining,
you lead us and guide us in ways that are true.

3 All praise to the Spirit, provider, defender.
You offer us freedom, to follow or stray,
Empowering all by the hope you engender.
Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.

LITANY OF CONFESSION (written by John Birch)

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude, the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world, and the endless cycle of nature; of life and death and rebirth.

Forgive us for taking without giving, reaping without sowing.

Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, our hands to share.

May our feet touch lightly on the path we tread, and our footsteps be worthy of following, for they lead to you.

Moment of Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (written by Rev Gord)

God is the giver of MANY gifts.

God is the Creator of the ONE body.

God is slow to anger and quick to forgive.

God helps us to share and honor the gifts of all,

God helps us to heal the wounds and reunite the body.

We are forgiven, loved, and accepted.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

Hear now Psalm 120 from the Rev. Benjamin Chavis psalter...

Psalter Lesson

Psalm 120

Here ends the Psalter Lesson.

Amen.

Hear now from the Hebrew Scriptures...

Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 9:2-3 (NRSVUE)

Tim Wildman

Here ends the Lesson.

Amen.

Let us share together from the Gospel of Luke...

Gospel Lesson

Luke 9:28-36, 24:30-32 (The Voice)

Tim Wildman

Here ends the Gospel Lesson.

Amen.

PAUSE FOR SILENT REFLECTION

SONG: #419 Now Thank We All Our God (Public Domain)

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world in the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,
to Christ and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Global Ministries Weekly Prayers: Korea

(Prayer and Mission Moment written by the Global Ministries Partners in Korea)

Mission Moment from Korea
Prayers with Korea

Dear God, we thank you for our communities, where we gather to enjoy and learn from each other. We thank you for the opportunities that invite us to listen to hard truths about our past and discern hopeful visions of our future. Be in our midst during our difficult conversations, and show us creative possibilities for renewing the ways we live and work together.

We give thanks for the inspiring ministry of My Sister's Place, which for 37 years has served in solidarity with women in military camp villages throughout Korea, providing a safe space for comfort and guidance when life in the clubs and streets has proved threatening. We ask your continued presence and blessings be with My Sister's Place, with its dedicated staff, and with the sisters who have found a home there as they seek to continue their important work in their community.

We ask your Spirit to fall on the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea and its Women's Ministries program. May they continue to support Durebang as it enters a new direction under new leadership following its General Assembly in September.

We pray you strengthen our partnership with the PROK so we may continue to listen and learn from them as we seek to build your blessed community in our world together. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
(Response to each prayer:)
God of Abundance,
Receive our prayers.

PASTORAL PRAYER (written by Rev. Karla Miller)

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

Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-739671. All rights reserved.

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 (written by Rev. Quentin Chin)

GRATITUDE MUSIC

Great Is Your Faithfulness (Public Domain)

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God Creator,
with you no shadow of turning we see.
You do not change, your compassions, they fail not;
all of you goodness forever wilt be. **(Refrain)**

(Refrain) "Great is your faithfulness!" "Great is your faithfulness!"

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed your hand has provided.
"Great is your faithfulness," God, unto me!

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To your great faithfulness, mercy and love. **(Refrain)**

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that enduring,
your own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **(Refrain)**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (written by the Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel)

O God, who desires good for all creatures satisfy our hunger not just for food, but for freedom, truth, justice and love.

O Risen Christ, you revealed yourself to us as one who gives to the poor and cares for all people. We dedicate our lives and our offerings to your service.

O Holy Spirit, bless these gifts and abide in our hearts so that our gifts and our actions may live out our faith, glorify God, and bring forth a fruitful harvest for the kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING SONG: #422

Come, O Thankful People Come (Public Domain)

1 Come, O thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in, as the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

2 All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield;
all the fruits in full supply, ripened "neath the summer sky,
All the spring with bounteous hand scatters o'er the smiling land,
all that liberal autumn pours from its rich o'er flowing stores.

3 These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all blessings flow;
And for these our songs we raise, grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then, thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

SETTING OUR INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

GREATEST COMMANDMENT

UNISON SENDING (written by John Birch)

**God of harvest,
gardener supreme,
you place us at the center,
feed us, equip us and,
having provided for us,
look to a different harvest—
a fruitfulness of lives
in service to you
and others.
God of harvest,
feed us
prune us
harvest us
that our lives
might bring glory to you.
Our worship has ended, our service now begins. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

For the Fruit of All Creation

Annie Papinsick

For the Fruit of All Creation (AR HYD Y NOS)

Words (c) 1970 Hope Publishing Company Arr. PD in the USA

Contributors: Fred Pratt Green, arr. Ralph Vaughan William

Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-739671. All rights reserved.



Advent & Christmas Events

Sunday, December 1st

9:30-10:30 am - Greening the Chapel

10:30-11:30 am - First Advent (Hope) with Communion

11:30-12:15 - Advent Video Discussion

Sunday, December 8th

10:30-11:30 am - Second Advent (Peace) & Hanging of the Chrismons

11:30-12:15 - Advent Video Discussion

Thursday, December 12th

1:30-2:30 pm - Christmas Carol Sing in the Chapel at Havenwood

Sunday, December 15th

2:30-4:30 pm - Jazz Sanctuary; Third Advent (Joy)

Tuesday, December 17th

7-8:30 pm - Jazz Sanctuary Holiday Special LIVE on Facebook

Sunday, December 22nd

10:30-11:30 am - Fourth Advent (Love)

11:30-12:15 - Advent Video Discussion

Tuesday, December 24th

6-7pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 29th

10:30-11:30 am Worship service with Hymn Sing

Sunday, January 5th

10:30-11:30 am Epiphany worship service