

September 4, 2022

# Order of Worship

9:30am

*An asterisk (\*) indicates times when you are invited to stand. Selections in **BOLD** are responses spoken by the congregation.*

**Welcome** Deacon

**Prelude** *Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine* Laura Murach  
H. Percy Smith

**Call to Worship** (adapted from Psalm 112) Deacon

One: Give thanks to God!  
**All: Let us gather to receive the Lord's blessings.**  
One: God's righteousness endures forever.  
**All: We know that God is faithful and steadfast.**  
One: Let us worship the Lord with grateful hearts.  
**All: Give thanks to God!**

**\*Gathering Hymn** *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* NCH 293  
(Deacons will collect Joy/Concern cards at this time.)

**Scripture** Deacon

As we hear the words of scripture.  
**Let us listen in the words for the Word of God.**

John 14: 13-21

Pew Bible, p. 939

The grass withers and the flower fades,  
**But the Word of God shall stand forever.**

**Sermon Message** "Is it spiritual food or physical food? Yes." Ned Allyn Parker

**Prayers of the People for the World** Ned Allyn Parker

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayers.**

**Lord's Prayer** Ned Allyn Parker

**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, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Communion Hymn of Preparation** *Let Us Break Bread Together* NCH 330

**The Lord's Supper**

*All are welcome to partake in the sacrament of communion. Please see Insert.*

**\*Closing Hymn** *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* NCH 495

**\*Benediction**

Ned Allyn Parker

**Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;  
Be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;  
Render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted;  
Support the weak; help the afflicted;  
Honor all people; love and serve God;  
Rejoicing through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen**

**\*Parting Song**

*God Be With You 'Till We Meet Again*

(modified)

**God be with You till we meet again.  
By God's counsels guide, uphold you.  
God will place arms all around you.  
God be with you till we meet again.**

**Postlude**

*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*  
F. Atkinson

Laura Murach

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**The Sacrament of Communion (Adapted from The New Century Hymnal)**

**The Invitation**

This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

**ALL: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.**

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being.

We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none.

We give you thanks for the gift of Jesus, our only savior.

**ALL: We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, the good news who is the way, the truth, and the life. We worship and glorify you, God most holy as we say:**

**Holy, holy, holy God**

**Of love and majesty,**

**The whole universe speaks of your glory,**

**O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

## The Words of Institution

On the night of betrayal, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also after supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving you thanks, gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.**

## Sharing the Bread and Cup

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Let us pray together.

**ALL: Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are ready.

Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, broken for you.

Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.

## The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray together:

**ALL: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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Our guest preacher for today is Rev. Ned Parker. Ned comes to us from Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School where he is the Associate Dean for Institutional Advancement and a Lecturer in Homiletics. The son and grandson of pastors, Ned was ordained in the American Baptist Churches, USA. Along the way, Ned has served as a pastor in a Seattle Washington church, and as the resident director and multi-faith chaplain at Hampshire College and the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Massachusetts. Welcome Ned.

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### **This is an Open and Affirming Church**

We affirm the dignity and worth of every person, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, race, mental or physical ability or sexual orientation. We offer sacraments and rites to all who enter our circle of faith. We celebrate the gifts that each person brings to First Congregational Church and invite them to share in all areas of its service, leadership, activities, responsibilities and privileges.

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