

Valuing God and Living Things Over Stuff

Communion Sunday | July 6, 2025

MEDITATION

"Holy Spirit, stir in us today some new understanding; some new passion; some new insight into you. As we read your Scriptures, help us to hear your still, small voice and call to connect with each other in new and deeper ways. Amen."

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

L: And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **P: And also with you.**

PRELUDE

"God So Loved the World"

Violinist: Deborah Bradley
Music by Lloyd Larson

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 66:1-5)

Melessa Fox, Deacon

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

All: sing God's glorious name; shout out glorious praise.

Leader: Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

All: All the earth worships you; they sing praises to your name."

Leader: Come and see what God has done:

All: tell of God's awesome deeds among all people!

*SONG OF REJOICING

"Rejoice in the Lord Always" 2x

In Pew

RESPONSIVE OPENING PRAYER

Melessa Fox, Deacon

Leader: Patient God, you call and call and we come up with every excuse why we can't answer your call to follow your will for our lives.

All: Forgive our fear God. Remind us that when we answer your call, we will not be sent out alone.

Leader: We will be but filled with your gifts and held in your love.

All: We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Rock and Redeemer. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Praise to God”

Black 5

WORD FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Lisa Allen

ANTHEM

“Endless Glory, Endless Love”

Violinist: Deborah Bradley

Music: George F. Handel, Arranged by: Vernon Fay

OLD TESTAMENT READING | Luke 10:1-11, 16-20, p. 86

Melessa Fox, Deacon

NEW TESTAMENT READING | Psalm 30:11-12, p. 622

Melessa Fox, Deacon

L: The Word of God for the people of God. **All: Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

“Valuing God and Living Things Over Stuff”

Rev. Eric Stroshine

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be distributed this morning so that you may remain seated. Grape juice is served, and a gluten-free whole-grain bread option is available.

INVITATION & WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

PRAYER OF BLESSING

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Creator of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***RESPONSIVE HYMN**

“Spirit of the Living God”

Black 283

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

During the prayers of the people, you are invited to voice your joys and concerns out loud. When names are spoken, all invited to respond, “O Lord, hear our prayers.”

SUNG LORD’S PRAYER

In Pew

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“I am the Bread of Life”

Choir

Words/Music: Arnold Sherman

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love had done:
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One Amen.

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Holy God, bless our gifts of money, passion, time and prayer, that they may travel far in your world, blessing your children in every place. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“How Beautiful Our Spacious Skies”

Black 594

***BENEDICTION**

SUNG BENEDICTION

“May You Go in Peace”

Choir

Gene Grier and Lowell Everson

POSTLUDE

“Prepare the Way of the Lord” Violinist: Deborah Bradley

Music: William Rowan

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Many thanks to the volunteers who enriched our morning together!

Deacon, Melessa Fox; Tech Deacon, Amelia Allen; Choir, Kay Clark, Linda Thomas, Joyce Kenneally, Meg Tivey, Alan King and Chris Polloni; Hospitality & Food donation, Kay Clark

NEW HERE TODAY?

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you are welcome here!
To help you navigate Sunday mornings with us, please see the guide below.*

1. **Order of Worship:** **An asterisk means stand in body or spirit. **Bold text** is spoken in unison.*
 2. **Kid's Connection:** *After the "Word for all God's children," the children leave worship for a time learning and fun with Bible stories, crafts, and games with Lisa Allen.*
 3. **TAKE TWO** *is an adult faith formation group that meets after worship with Lisa Allen. This month's topic is "Faith as We Age."*
 4. **Coffee and Conversation:** *You are welcome to gather with us after worship to meet some new friends in the Covenant Room, down the hall on the right.*
 5. **Have Questions?** *Please reach out to the Deacon of the day.*
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Music covered under One License # A-728849

Welcome to Rev. Eric Stroshine

The Reverend Eric Stroshine is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and lives in Centerville with his wife Colleen. He served churches for 29 years and the last church he served was the First Congregational Church of Hanover, Massachusetts. Five years ago he started a counseling ministry and is now a psychotherapist in private practice. He graduated with an undergraduate degree from University of Massachusetts Amherst and has graduate degrees from Yale Divinity School and Boston University School of Social Work.



Today's altar flowers are from the garden of Bill and Marsha Martin. They are dedicated to all those who have fought for our freedoms including our freedom to gather in worship.