

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

PENTECOST

MAY 31, 2020

“There lies the dearest freshness deep down things.... because the Holy Ghost
over the bent world broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.”
~ from “God’s Grandeur,” by Gerard Manley Hopkins

Welcome to our digital worship! In this church we focus on the things that matter. It doesn’t matter to us if you grew up in a church or never set foot in one before. You matter to us. We welcome you as you are, because we believe that we are all embraced by God's inclusive and extravagant love.

We invite you to “check in” on the social media of your choice, let them know that you are doing church, even in these uncertain times, ask your networks for prayer requests, or otherwise bring your online self into God’s presence today.

SHARING YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS

Because of a few minutes broadcast delay, prayer concerns and celebrations to be shared during worship can be emailed to prayers@firstchurchnatick.org at any time before or during the worship service up to the Reflection.

PRELUDE

Wind

Doug Hammer

Thomas Foster, Piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Jonathan New

(Following the Announcements, we invite you to have a candle available to light as your worship leaders light the Christ Candle)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO CELEBRATION

Mindy Hoge

We gather to celebrate the gift of the Spirit.

We gather to celebrate the birth of the church.

For a mighty wind has blown and tongues of fire have danced!

Moving people to proclaim God’s love and making them blaze with commitment.

Let us be ready to be filled with God’s Spirit.

Let us welcome the Spirit,

That it might rekindle our faith and action with the flame of Pentecost.

*On Pentecost they gathered quite early in the day,
A band of Christ's disciples, to worship, sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing, filled all the swirling air,
And tongues of fire a-glowing inspired each person there.*

*The people all around them were startled and amazed
To understand their language, as Christ the Lord they praised.
What universal message, what great good news was here?
That Christ, once dead, is risen to vanquish all our fear.*

*God pours the Holy Spirit on all who would believe,
On women, men, and children who would God's grace receive.
That Spirit knows no limit, bestowing life and power.
The church, formed and reforming, responds in every hour.*

*O Spirit, sent from heaven on that day long ago,
Rekindle faith among us in all life's ebb and flow.
O give us ears to listen and tongues aflame with praise,
So folk of every nation glad songs of joy shall raise.*

OPENING PRAYER (TOGETHER)

*Spirit of love, blow from the four corners to quicken our spirits
and to burn as a flame in our hearts — enflame our compassion,
enlarge our witness, and stretch our hospitality.*

*Breath of joy, renew our worship, touch our hearts,
bring us lasting peace of your Christ.*

Receive us as we are and make us more than we are:

a people of faith who fill the world with God's love and joy;

inspired, inspirited prophets, dauntless proclaimers of Jesus' good news.

Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(Reach your hands out in a gesture of blessing or place your hands together over your heart and bow in a sign of Namaste. Once worship is concluded, consider being in touch with someone you know to share Christ's peace.)

TIME FOR CHILDREN

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY

Your Presence Is My Favorite Gift

John Hershey Reeves¹

Marge Roberson,
Guitar and Vocals

¹ Publisher Thrill Hill Music, BMI

A PENTECOST SONG OF PRAISE (HYMN NO. 11)

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

*Praise God whose breath fills all the earth,
Whose love reveals our sacred worth, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Where we see sorrow, want or need,
O make us equal to the deed.
Praise the Spirit! Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:1-21

REFLECTION

"Harnessing Spirit Power"

Rev. Dr. Jonathan New

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (TOGETHER)

*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. Amen.*

HYMN NO. 226

Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God

Land of Rest

*Come, teach us, Spirit of our God, the language of your way,
The lessons that we need to live, the faith for every day.*

*Excite our minds to follow you, to trace new truths in store,
New flight paths for our spirit space, new marvels to explore.*

*Engage our wits to dance with you, to leap from logic's base,
To capture insight on the wing, to sense your cosmic grace.*

*Inspire our spark to light from you, to catch creation's flair,
New artistry to celebrate, new harmonies to dare.*

*Delight our hearts to worship you, to learn compassion's code,
To live in context of your love, great teacher who is God!*

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Breathe on Me, Breath of God
Traditional, arr.

Dan Chadburn

Livestreamed & Recorded Worship

In consideration of the safety of our worship leaders and to demonstrate that everyone should avoid going out into public unless absolutely necessary our worship leaders will continue leading worship from their homes for the foreseeable future. ***During this time, livestreamed and local access cable broadcasting of worship at the usual Sunday 10:30 a.m. worship time will continue as usual.***

Worship is at the very center of our life together as a congregation, as well as being at the heart of our call to proclaim and embody the good news of Jesus in the world. Church leaders remain committed to ensuring that we can do that well. Thanks in advance for your patience and understanding as we seek to do what is best for our worship leaders and right for our community while remaining a church that gives high priority to worship together as the Body of Christ. If you have feedback for our worship leaders please contact Jonathan at pastor@firstchurchnatick.org. We appreciate your input!

Post Worship Fellowship

11:30AM – 12:30 PM, on Zoom following livestream worship

Join us for an informal virtual gathering where we can greet one another, and – if the spirit strikes us – talk about the day's worship experience.

Follow this link for the videocall: <https://zoom.us/j/314817921> or,

To join by phone: call in at (929) 205-6099, then enter 314817921# (and don't forget the # at the end!).

NOTE: Please be patient for the arrival of your Zoom host since he may still be transitioning from recording the service at 11:30!

CALENDAR FOR MAY 31, 2020 - JUNE 7, 2020

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|--------------------------|----------|--|
| Sunday, May 31 | 10:30 AM | Virtual Worship will be live streamed on Pegasus. |
| | 11:30 AM | Post Worship Fellowship via Zoom |
| | 2:00 PM | Virtual Worship service will be available on the church website. |
| Wednesday, June 3 | 12:00 PM | Mid-week Connection via Zoom |
| Thursday, June 4 | 7:30PM | Choir Meeting via Zoom |
| Sunday, June 7 | 10:30 AM | Virtual Worship will be live streamed on Pegasus. |
| | 11:30 AM | Post Worship Fellowship Zoom Call |
| | 2:00 PM | Virtual Worship service will be available on the church website. |
| | 5:00 PM | Jr. Youth Group via Zoom |
| | 7:00 PM | Sr. Youth Group via Zoom |

Together, We're Making A Difference!

Our church is responding to the current health crisis in innovative ways, by continuing to gather on Sundays in live-streamed worship, and being in fellowship and shared ministry through videoconferencing. Now we're also exploring how to further live into our identity as Natick's *Digital* Front Porch. Far from putting our mission on hold, this is the time when Spirit-led people can tend the spirits of others in our community feeling anxious and isolated. There's never been a more important time to proclaim and embody the Good News of God's abiding love given to us by Jesus!

We need your generous support of our shared ministry during this time when the offering plate isn't being passed during in-person worship. The average congregation receives only 16% of its household contributions from mailed, online, or auto-bill paid giving. Most comes through the offering plate. We're pleased that 63% of our giving is now coming in alternative ways. But, while this is a terrific shift, it still means that we're only seeing about two-thirds of our regular giving from church members and friends. If you haven't done so already, here's how you can shift your in-person offering plate giving to other giving means:

- Mailing in donations to: 2 East Central Street, Natick, MA, 01760.
- Making one-time or recurring gifts online through our church website and its secure giving platform: <http://firstchurchnatick.org/give-online>.
- Setting up auto-bill pay with your bank (usually be done online), just the same way you would for paying utility bills.
- Considering making at least some portion of your contribution earlier in the year if you are an annual or semi-annual giver.

The world needs what FCC Natick can be and do, particularly in this time that is challenging all of us in unprecedented ways. Thanks for doing your part to make sure we can keep our unique and vibrant ministry going at just the moment it's needed most!

PRAYER LIST

Liam Schmitt	Family & Friends of Mike Keedy	Grace Osgood
Isabella	Family & Friends of Bruce Wharton	Brad Sticklely
Rick	Family & Friends of Bob McDonald	Chris Gobron
Stephen	Family & Friends of Jack Gobron	Richard Keller
David	Family & Friends of Fernando Morales	Heidi Burger
Irene	Gonzalez	Ed Kinley
Juan Mercado	Family & Friends of Jeff Holgate	Bob Steen
Gerry Carlson	Family & Friends of Charlotte Figi	Joan Hayes
Carolyn Kennan	Family & Friends of Robert Nason	Natalie Friend
Jack Gobron	Family & Friends of Dr. Jeff Bolton	Connie Sullivan
Jenna Hayes	Family & Friends of Betty Hollis	Chris Starks
Brad Jennings	Family & Friends of Juan Mercado	Barbara Dickson
Abby Robbins	Peter Sinesi & his family	Carolyn Sarbello
Jennifer	Michelle, Catherine & Noah	Cheryl Gowdy
Jane Hall	Ellen, Jim & daughter	Barbara Bidwell
Regan Lynch	Jen M. & family	Jayne Hayes
Brian	Bryan & his unit	Kim Palmer
Ronnie	Lily Dreher & her family	Grandma Pat
Kathy	Shirley & her family	Peter McKinney
Allison	Evelyn & her family	Miriam's Mom
Susan	Judge Shelley Joseph	Tiffany Spigarolo
Patrick	Jean, Kathy & Paul Joyce	Carolyn Aycock
Oliver	Chris Leigh Manuell	Alice Bridinger
Alex	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey	Mary Cerreto
Emmett	Sari, Andrew & Tyler	Faye Bishop
Mitch	Jose & family	Pam Dotter
Polina	Yandow family	Paul Ladd
Amelia	Marcy Bailey-Adams	John Sullivan
Jean-Paul	Sibyl Waterman Haley	Gerry Granfors
Randall D.	John & Kay Hartman	Char Hannon
Karen	Mary & Jim Howard	Mickey Nieman
Bonnie & George	The people of Santa Maria Tzeja	Don O'Meara
Hailey	All those struggling with substances	Stuart
John	All those waiting at the border	Elizabeth Godrick
Don Peterson	Health Care Workers	Mark & Patty
Nicholas	Minimum Wage Workers	Christopher Gobron
Carole	People feeling Isolated and Separated	Amanda Sinesi
Kiara	People living at home in Difficult Situations	Mo Carriker
Amanda	People searching for a Place to Live	Eric Carriker
Aphrodite Hoge	The families and loved ones who have passed	Keith Jennings
Canasta Solidaria	due to the pandemic	Juan Mercado

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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