

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

*United Church of Christ*

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**MOTHER'S DAY**

**MAY 10, 2020**

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven....*

*A time to break down and a time to build up....*

*A time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together.”*

*~ Ecclesiastes 3*

**We invite you to find a stone of your choosing that you can have with you in worship as we reflect on the today's scripture that encourages us to be like “living stones.”**

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](mailto:prayers@firstchurchnatick.org) at any time before or during the worship service up to the Reflection.

### **PRELUDE**

*Village of Dali*

Nobuo Uematsu

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**

We come today, longing for the pure, spiritual milk God provides for our growth.

***Surely we have tasted that the Lord is good!***

We come to worship the Living Stone.

***So that we might become living stones, too.***

We come as God's own people

***To be built into a house of Spirit and to build God's realm of love.***

**HYMN NO. 26**

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Lobe Den Herren

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation!*

*Sing, my soul, praising the source of thy health and salvation!*

*All ye who hear, now to God's temple draw near;*

*Join me in glad adoration!*

*Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,*

*Shelters thee underneath wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!*

*Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been*

*Granted in what God ordaineth?*

*Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;*

*Surely great goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.*

*Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,*

*Who with great love doth befriend thee.*

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation!*

*All that hath life and breath, sing out thy heart's jubilation!*

*Let the Amen sound from God's people again:*

*Joining in glad adoration.*

**OPENING PRAYER (TOGETHER)** (*from Isaiah 51*)

*Holy One, Rock from which we were hewn,*

*Quarry from which we were dug, be present this day.*

*Help us to remember you, our source.*

*Handle us gently but skillfully, as a master mason,*

*shaping us into the beautiful and purposeful living stones*

*that you would have us be.*

*Build us this day into a house of spirit, a community of your faithful people.*

*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

*Sonata in E-flat, K. 282: Menuetto II*

W.A. Mozart

#### SONG OF PRAISE *(Please feel free to use either traditional or inclusive language.)*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God above, all heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

#### HYMN NO. 239

*Built on the Rock*  
Beth Canterbury, Soloist

Kirken Den Er Et Gammelt Hus

*Built on the rock the church does stand, even when steeples are falling.  
Christ builds the church in ev'ry land; bells still are chiming and calling;  
Calling the young and old to rest, calling the souls of those distressed,  
Longing for life everlasting.*

*Not just in temples made with hands, God, the Most Holy, is dwelling.  
Hidden from sight God's temple stands, all earthly temples excelling.  
One whom the heav'ns cannot contain chose here among us to remain,  
Built in our bodies God's temple.*

*We are a house of living stones built for God's own habitation;  
God fills our hearts, these humble thrones, granting us life and salvation.  
Were two or three to pray for grace, Christ in their midst would show his face,  
Blessings upon them bestowing.*

#### SCRIPTURE READING

*I Peter 2:2-10*

#### REFLECTION

*"A Gathering of Living Stones"*

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. 427**                      *My Life Flows On in Endless Song*                      How Can I Keep From Singing

*My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation,  
I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior's living.  
What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he's giving.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?  
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

**BLESSING**  
**POSTLUDE**

*Melodies of Life*

Nobuo Uematsu

## **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](mailto: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 10, 2020 - MAY 17, 2020**

<b>Sunday, May 10</b>	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.
<b>Monday, May 11</b>	10:00 AM Spirit Connect via Zoom 7:00 PM Preschool Board Meeting via Zoom
<b>Tuesday, May 12</b>	3:00 PM Spirit Boost via Zoom
<b>Wednesday, May 13</b>	7:00 PM Coordinating Council Meeting via Zoom
<b>Sunday, May 17</b>	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. 5:00PM Jr. Youth Group via Zoom 7:00PM 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	Peter Sinesi & his family	Barbara Dickson
Abby Robbins	Michelle, Catherine & Noah	Carolyn Sarbello
Jennifer	Ellen, Jim & daughter	Cheryl Gowdy
Jane Hall	Jen M. & family	Barbara Bidwell
Regan Lynch	Bryan & his unit	Jayne Hayes
Brian	Lily Dreher & her family	Kim Palmer
Ronnie	Shirley & her family	Grandma Pat
Kathy	Evelyn & her family	Peter McKinney
Allison	Judge Shelley Joseph	Miriam's Mom
Susan	Jean, Kathy & Paul Joyce	Tiffany Spigarolo
Patrick	Chris Leigh Manuell	Carolyn Aycock
Oliver	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey	Alice Bridinger
Alex	Sari, Andrew & Tyler	Mary Cerreto
Emmett	Jose & family	Faye Bishop
Mitch	Yandow family	Pam Dotter
Polina	Marcy Bailey-Adams	Paul Ladd
Amelia	Sibyl Waterman Haley	John Sullivan
Jean-Paul	John & Kay Hartman	Gerry Granfors
Randall D.	Mary & Jim Howard	Char Hannon
Karen	The people of Santa Maria Tzeja	Mickey Nieman
Bonnie & George	All those struggling with substances	Don O'Meara
Hailey	All those waiting at the border	Stuart
John	Health Care Workers	Elizabeth Godrick
Don Peterson	Minimum Wage Workers	Mark & Patty
Nicholas	People feeling Isolated and Separated	Christopher Gobron
Carole	People living at home in Difficult Situations	Amanda Sinesi
Kiara	People searching for a Place to Live	Mo Carriker
Amanda	The families and loved ones who have passed	Eric Carriker
Aphrodite Hoge	due to the pandemic	Keith Jennings
Canasta Solidaria		Juan Mercado

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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