

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 28, 2020

“I am a part of the whole, and I cannot find God apart from the rest of humanity.”

~ Mahatma Gandhi

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

To a Wild Rose
Thomas Foster, piano

Edward MacDowell

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

God invites us to this time of worship.

This is a place where all belong.

From the ends of the earth we are gathered together;

The poor, the rich, the joyful, the sorrowful, the honored, and the despised –

All are gathered in one community.

Together we reflect the love and life of God.

We have come from many worlds.

Let us worship God as one!

*In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north;
But one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.*

*Join hands, disciples of the faith, what e'er your race may be;
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.*

OPENING PRAYER (TOGETHER)

*Holy One, create a spirit within us that draws us toward you
and our siblings in your family – as different from us as they may be.
A spirit of communion – daring, responsive, and compassionate.
Clear our minds, open our hearts, and touch us with your presence
and power that we might be one even as we celebrate our diversity and difference.
Above all, help us live together like the spirit-filled people you have created
us to be!
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 OURSELVES AND OUR SUBSTANCE

OFFERTORY

Waltz in A-flat, Op. 39, No. 15

Johannes Brahms

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

SCRIPTURE READING

James 2:1-17 & Luke 14:1, 7-14

REFLECTION

“Working From God’s Guest List”

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. 500

O For a World

Azmon

*O for a world where everyone respects each other’s ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.*

*O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, and equality achieved.*

*We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.*

*The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.*

*O for a world preparing for God’s glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.*

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Mazurka in B-flat major

Chopin

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!

You are Invited - All-Church Zoom Conversation!

You are invited to join in a congregation-wide Zoom call TODAY, **Sunday, June 28, immediately following worship** (with an **alternative date of Tuesday, June 30, 7:00 p.m.** for those who can't make it on the 28th). By now you should have received a letter from the FCC Coordinating Council letting you know that it had unanimously decided not to resume in-person worship until at least the end of the summer. The letter outlines the considerations and rationale for this decision. However, we also want to offer the opportunity for anyone in our church community to hear more, offer feedback, and think together about how we'll continue to be church during this time. The Zoom link for this conversation will be the usual link for post-worship fellowship time available below.

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 JUNE 28, 2020 - JULY 5, 2020

Sunday, June 28	10:30 AM Virtual Worship will be live streamed on Pegasus. 11:30 AM Post Worship All-Church Zoom Conversation! 2:00 PM Virtual Worship service will be available on the church website.
Tuesday, June 28	7:00 PM Post Worship All-Church Zoom Conversation!
Wednesday, June 29	12:00 PM Mid-week Connection via Zoom
Thursday, June 30	11:00 AM Mindful Meditation
Sunday, July 5	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.

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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