

Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale
Sunday, February 20, 2022 ~ Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Lord, I Stretch My Hands To You

Words & Music: Jay Althouse
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WELCOME AND GATHERING PRAYER
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God calls us to assemble

All: The dawn was still dark when we heard the call.

One: Darkness does not keep us from answering the call

All: Lord, it is Your dawning light that we seek and follow

One: Let us place ourselves before God,

All: In love and without fear, we place ourselves before God, with open hearts and minds. Amen!

OPENING HYMN

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Words: Graham Kendrick
Music: Graham Kendrick; Arr. by Tom Fettke
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*Lord, the light of Your love is shining
in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth You now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.*

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory,
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire;
flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy,
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

*Lord, I come to your awesome presence
from the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.*

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory,
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire;
flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy,
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

*As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.*

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory,
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire;
flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy,
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

UNISON PRAYER

God of peace and love, as children, we were taught to judge ourselves and others instead of accepting ourselves as You made us. Judging others has become a habit in these times. The world forces many to choose sides instead of walking in Your light. Lord, we seek a better way; we seek a world where love and peace reign. Lord, You loved us even before we were born. Help us to demonstrate that love to the world. God, may Your Spirit be upon us as we continually learn to walk in Your light, showing the world and our neighbors there is a better way.

OUR LORDS PRAYER

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; For thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever, Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

WORDS: Lesser Doxology (3rd-4th centuries)

MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

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Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Loving Others, Pastor Dave

CHILDREN'S HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

Words & Music: Harry Dixon Loes

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*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.*

SCRIPTURE READING

New Testament Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50

Gospel Lesson: Luke 6:27–38

SERMON

Growing Beyond, Pastor Dave

HYMN

This Is a Day of New Beginnings, #518

Words: Brian Wren (1978, rev. 1987)

Music: Carlton R. Young (1984)

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*This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.*

*For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.*

*Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.*

*In faith we gather round the table
to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.*

*In faith we'll gather round the table
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.*

MORNING OFFERING

WE OFFER OURSELVES TO GOD

We joyfully offer ourselves in God's work using our time, talent, and treasure.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674

MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

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*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WE PAUSE TO REFLECT AND PRAY

Prayers of the People: You are invited to offer prayers of concerns or joys.

Sharing our joys and concerns

Pastor: God is with you

All: And also, with you

Pastor: Let us pray

PASTORAL PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

WORDS: Psalm 143:1

MUSIC: George Whelpton, 1897

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*Hear our Prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer O Lord.
Incline thine ear to us, And grant us thy peace. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, #66

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1867, alt.)

Music: St. Denio

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*Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

*Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changest thee.*

*Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praises we render: O help us to see
that only the splendor of light hideth thee.*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Go in Peace

Words: Barbara L. Waters

Music: Kenneth E. White

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*Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.
Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life!
Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.*

RECESSIONAL POSTLUDE

1 Corinthians 15:35-38; 42-50 (NRSV)

The Resurrection Body

35 But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" 36 Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. 42 So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. 47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is[a] from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will[b] also bear the image of the man of heaven. 50 What I am saying, brothers and sisters,[c] is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Luke 6:27-38 (NRSV)

Love for Enemies

27 "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30 Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you. 32 "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.[a] Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Judging Others

37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."