

WEEKLY GOOD NEWS EMAIL
First Congregational Church of Hanover, Massachusetts
And Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ



From Pastor Terry
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October 4, 2020

SUNDAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 19)

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Invocation:

O Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Introduction

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 21:33-46 (The Message translation)

³³⁻³⁴ “Here’s another story. Listen closely. There was once a man, a wealthy farmer, who planted a vineyard. He fenced it, dug a winepress, put up a watchtower, then turned it over to the farmhands and went off on a trip. When it was time to harvest the grapes, he sent his servants back to collect his profits.

³⁵⁻³⁷ “The farmhands grabbed the first servant and beat him up. The next one they murdered. They threw stones at the third, but he got away. The owner tried again, sending more servants. They got the same treatment. The owner was at the end of his rope. He decided to send his son. ‘Surely,’ he thought, ‘they will respect my son.’

³⁸⁻³⁹ “But when the farmhands saw the son arrive, they rubbed their hands in greed. ‘This is the heir! Let’s kill him and have it all for ourselves.’ They grabbed him, threw him out, and killed him.

⁴⁰ “Now, when the owner of the vineyard arrives home from his trip, what do you think he will do to the farmhands?” ⁴¹ “He’ll kill them—a rotten bunch, and good riddance,” they answered. “Then he’ll assign the vineyard to farmhands who will hand over the profits when it’s time.” ⁴²⁻
⁴⁴ Jesus said, “Right—and you can read it for yourselves in your Bibles:

The stone the masons threw out is now the cornerstone. This is God’s work; we rub our eyes; we can hardly believe it! “This is the way it is with you. God’s kingdom will be taken back from you and handed over to a people who will live out a kingdom life. Whoever stumbles on this Stone gets shattered; whoever the Stone falls on gets smashed.”

⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶ When the religious leaders heard this story, they knew it was aimed at them. They wanted to arrest Jesus and put him in jail, but intimidated by public opinion, they held back. Most people held him to be a prophet of God.

Hymn: *Morning Has Broken*

Morning has broken like the first morning, Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, Like the first dew-fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, Sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!



Sermon: *Harvest Judgment*

Hymn: *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till morn shall wax and wane no more.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns; the prisoner leaps to lose his chains,
The weary find eternal rest, and all the sons of want are blessed.

People and realms of every tongue dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on His Name.

Lots of Good News

OCTOBER 4 is Communion Sunday. If you would like a prefilled communion cup, email Pastor Terry to drop it off in your mailbox.

THIS SUNDAY:

The **Outreach and Service** Committee will meet immediately following the worship service.

The **Search Committee** will hold the second conversation about the last question we need to discuss: *Who is God calling us to be?* The feedback from these conversations will help the Committee complete the church profile. Once that is done it can be posted on the national UCC website and the search begins.

Search Committee meetings:

Sunday, October 4 at church after worship in Riley Hall

Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 on ZOOM

Thursday October 8 at 7:00 on ZOOM

ALTAR FLOWERS: You are invited to bring flowers or a plant to beautify the Sunday services at Riley Hall. Please call Cindy Shaw at 781-864-3632 to arrange a date.

FIRST VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS: The pandemic may have kept members of the Southern New England Conference, UCC, from gathering in person for their first official Annual Meeting, but there was no impediment to the Holy Spirit. The Zoom Meeting was accessed by approximately 600 people. Like most Annual Meetings, it was filled with beautiful music, vibrant worship, speak-outs, a celebration of 25 and 50 Year Ordinands, and the election of its first Executive Conference Minister, The Rev. Darrell Goodwin.

READ THE UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONAL on-line at:

<http://www.upperroom.org/standingorderchurches>.

Church Calendar

SUNDAY: Outreach and Service Committee meet at 10:45. The Search Committee conversation starts following the service. The virtual coffee hour is at 11:30.

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY AT 7 PM Join in at

<https://zoom.us/j/93375349480pwd=OWlkcjRmV2llaEt0M202RUhKRtA4UT09>

Meeting ID: 933 7534 9480; **Password:** 006430

TUESDAY AT 7 PM: Deacons on Zoom

WEDNESDAY: Search Committee

WEDNESDAY HOUR OF FELLOWSHIP AT 2 PM Join in at

<https://zoom.us/j/5848654652?pwd=WHlDSnlhWkIwc2FGS0c3VWgwNmMzZz09;>

Meeting ID: 584 865 4652; **Password:** 531416

THURSDAY AT 7 PM: Social Concerns Committee on Zoom

EVERYDAY – if you miss seeing someone from church give them a call!

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Please email your celebrations and concerns to John Terry or to the church office.

Please pray for:

- The family of Nancy Bezanson, former Moonlighter, who passed September 29
- Terry Milley with eye issues
- Lincoln Demoura, Lynn White's brother in law, in hospice/no more treatments
- Bill O'Donnell, Susan Vetterlein's brother-in-law, undergoing chemo therapy
- Barbara Winsloe, mother of Deborah Springhetti, in failing health
- Jaycee Hall, Ruth Hall's daughter-in-law, with remitting auto immune disease

We celebrate that Wally Kemp was featured in the Duxbury Art Complex Museum newsletter. Here is the link to read the article. <https://artcomplex.org/acm-at-home>



Attachment of the week – more good news

Dear friends at First Congregational Church of Hanover,

Thank you for your support and faithfulness to me and my family. This past summer I was invited by a friend to do some guest preaching with a church on the Cape. The church requested I apply for the full-time position. Last week I was selected to be the new settled pastor. I still plan to serve as an Air Force Chaplain with the Reserves. I have chosen not to pursue Active Duty at this time. The family plans to remain in Foxboro and I will continue to commute to the Cape. Looking at all that is happening in the world I am reminded of Jesus' words recorded in Matthew 9:37, "the harvest is plenty, but the workers are few". This new opportunity will have its challenges, but I am also encouraged by the fruitfulness of the work to be done.

Speaking with Carolyn and the boys, we would like First Congregational Church of Hanover to remain our family church. I have enjoyed serving the military as a Chaplain on behalf of the Congregation. I will still be an Air Force Chaplain, just a drill status Chaplain again. I have exceeded my days of mobilizations as a Guardsman. It was supposed to be capped at 1,095 days but I have done 1,630 days.

Rev. Derek White