

First Congregational Church

Gathered in 1723

An Open and Affirming & Creation Justice Church of the United Church of Christ



Holy Ground by Lauren Wright Pittman, A Sanctified Art

August 30th, 2026
14th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin
Acting Associate Minister

Deacon's Quote of the Day

"This is a wonderful day. I've never seen this one before."

~Maya Angelou

"Life is sweeter when you have an attitude of gratitude."

~Dolly Parton

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

PASTORAL GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Why have we gathered on this holy day? What has drawn us to this time and place?

Many: We have been drawn to a flame burning here. We see the glory of God in this place.

One: God calls us to this time of worship. The place where we are standing is holy ground.

Many: Give thanks to God: sing praises!

Give attention to the voice of God.

One: Out of a burning bush, God spoke to Moses.

In the rhythms of worship, God speaks to us.

Many: We will listen for God's message to us.

Surely God's strength will supply our needs.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God speaks to us and yet distracted by noise all around us we often fail to listen to God's voice. In confession we quiet ourselves that we may hear the Holy One's loving voice calling our name and inviting us into deeper relationship.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess that we set our minds not on divine things but on human things. Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need. Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers. Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation. Forgive us that we may gain new life in you. We pray in Jesus' forgiving name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's grace is beyond our imagination and calls us to live transformed by holy love. Rejoice that you are known to God by name and beloved to God.

***HYMN**

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain (see insert)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 3:1-15

MESSAGE

Holy Ground

Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

***HYMN**

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land (see insert)

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S 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.

CALL TO OFFERING *during outdoor services offering can be placed in the boxes located on the welcome table*

God invites us to observe the suffering of our siblings in our own community and around the world. We have the resources to make a difference in their lives. Let us give as God has blessed us, with joy.

OFFERTORY

Goin' Home
Chuck Mayberry, baritone

A. Dvořák

CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT

Rest and Reflect

As Wendell Berry writes, "There are no unsacred places. There are only sacred places and desecrated places." Identify a place that is sacred to you. What makes it so? How can you care for that place?

***DOXOLOGY**

Tune: Old 100th

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore: One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Holy God of holy ground, like Moses we question our fitness to serve heaven's purpose on earth.
Overcome our qualms with the assurance of your constant presence. Bless these offerings that they
may be used to bring compassion, mercy, and hope to others. Amen.**

***HYMN**

Be Still My Soul (see insert)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I Don't Feel No-ways Tired
Chuck Mayberry, baritone

H. T. Burleigh

First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury (FCCS) is a vibrant, inclusive and
compassionate community of worship and mission.

We want our faith to transcend the things that separate us, to be tangible to endure tests of life and time and to be environmentally responsible, protecting God's creation. Led by the Holy Spirit, we look to Jesus Christ to guide us toward companionship, justice, and the inspiration to serve God and our community.

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

First Tune

Attr. to John of Damascus, c.696-c.754
Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866

ST. KEVIN 7.6.7.6.D.
Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900

1 Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - umph - ant glad - ness;
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ hath burst his pris - on,
 3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright With the day of splen - dor,
 4 Neith - er might the gates of death, Nor the tomb's dark por - tal,

God hath brought his Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness;
 And from three days' sleep in death As a sun hath ris - en;
 With the roy - al feast of feasts, Comes its joy to ren - der;
 Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal Hold thee as a mor - tal;

Loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
 All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing
 Comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem Who with true af - fec - tion
 But to - day a - midst the twelve Thou didst stand, be - stow - ing

Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 From his light, to whom we give Laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 Wel-comes in un-wea-ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
 That thy peace which ev - er - more Pass - eth hu - man know - ing. A-men.

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

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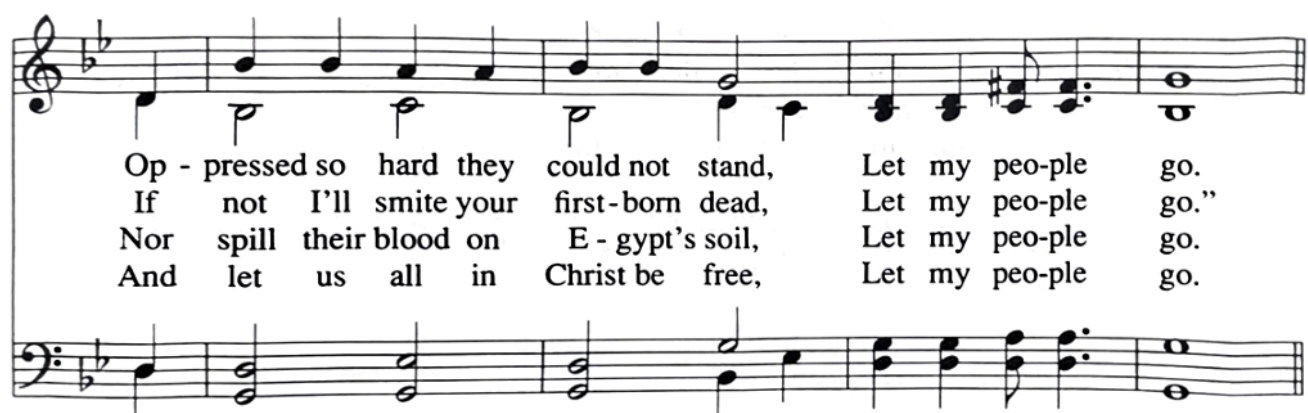
African-American spiritual; alt.

Exod. 3:7-12; 7:16; 8:1, 20; 9:1, 13; 10:3

Unison



1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, Let my peo-ple go,
 2 "Thus spoke our God," bold Mo - ses said, "Let my peo-ple go;
 3 No more in bond - age shall they toil, Let my peo-ple go,
 4 Oh, let us all from bond-age flee, Let my peo-ple go,



Op - pressed so hard they could not stand, Let my peo-ple go.
 If not I'll smite your first-born dead, Let my peo-ple go."
 Nor spill their blood on E - gypt's soil, Let my peo-ple go.
 And let us all in Christ be free, Let my peo-ple go.

Refrain



Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land,



Tell old Pha - raoh to let my peo-ple go.

1 Be still, my soul: for God is on your side; bear pa-tient-
2 Be still, my soul: for God will un-der-take to guide in
3 Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here when we shall

ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to
fu-ture days as in the past. Your hope, your con-fi-
be with God whom we a-dore, with dis-ap-point-ment

or-der and pro-vide; in ev-ery change God
dence let noth-ing shake; all now mys-te-rious
gone, no grief nor fear, sor-row re-placed with

faith-ful will re-main. Be still, my soul: your best e-ter-nal
shall be clear at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still
joy for-ev-er-more. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are

friend through thorn-y ways leads to a joy-ful end.
know how Je-sus' pow-er ruled them long a-go.
past, all safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.

The Senior Minister is Rev. Holly MillerShank

The Acting Associate Minister is Rev. Karen Dorshimer-Chaplin

The Director of Music is Curtis Smith

The Deacon is Mary Innis

The Reader is Luke Cressman and Curtis Smith

Greeters are Nancy Colby and Elaine Shaw

Altar flowers are provided by the Canzano family in love and remembrance of Erin's parents, Bill and Barbara Hughes.

Liturgy is adapted from Taught by Love, Lavon Bayler and Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor.

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Prayers for the family & friends of Alexander Macdonald; family and friends of Bernice Forrister; Red Cross, first responders, and all communities impacted by the wildfires; the family & friends of Wendy Driscoll; Joanne Warmen; Martha Sederquest; Bretton; Dan; Cindy and Sarah; Michael; Bob Podolski; Jim; Mary; Sherry & Scotty Robertson; Susie and Brian Amos; Ruthie, sister-in-law of Dave & Sue; Lt Ethan Connors and all military personnel deployed in the Middle East; Jimmy; Jay Scott; James Kelly; Deb Wallace; Anne & Jonathan Phyfe; Stanley; Sharon; Tracey Carner, David, brother-in-law of Kathleen & Dave Rocheleau; Roberta Jelinch's sister, Sandi.

-For those within our church family and all faith communities who are dealing with illness, caregiving, grief, mental health crisis, unemployment, hunger, and homelessness in their daily lives.

-Prayers for all those dealing with violence & loss as well as those recovering from natural disasters throughout our country and the world.

-For the people of Ukraine, Haiti and the Middle East whose lives continue to be shattered by war, as well as the many landscapes that are currently embroiled in conflicts.

-The mission & works of the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury.

-Blessings to government officials, first responders, health care workers, military personnel, and all who protect and care for us.

THIS WEEK AT FCC

Every day, 7am: AA, Cushing Hall

Every Wednesday, 5:30pm: ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholics), Youth Room & 214

Every Sunday, 7pm: AA, Adkins Room

Every Thursday, 7PM OA (Overeaters Anonymous), Rm 214

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday, 8/30:

9:30am: Outdoor Worship on the Common

5:00pm: JMS School Music Recital, Sanctuary & Gifford Hall

Tuesday, 9/1:

NO Guided Meditation

Wednesday, 9/2:

12:00pm: Mustard Seed, Kitchen

7:00pm: CLT, Adkins

Thursday, 9/3:

10:00am: SNEUCC, Adkins

3-6pm: CSA Pick-up, FCC parking lot

7:00pm: CE Ministry, Youth Room

Sunday, 9/6:

9:30am: Outdoor Worship on the Common

11:00am: Breakfast Bag Prep, Chapel

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm



