



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS
spiritual discovery • inclusive community • compassionate service

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



*Image: God the Geometer —
Gothic frontispiece of the Bible moralisée,
France, mid-13th century*

February 15th, 2026

**Rev. Holly MillerShank
Senior Minister**

Deacon's Quote of the Day

**“The February sunshine steeps your boughs and tints
the buds and swells the leaves within”**

-William C. Bryant

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING***PASSING OF THE PEACE****PASTORAL GREETING****CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: For too long, science and faith have had a combustible relationship. But even churches evolve. In the UCC, we're not afraid of science and technology. In fact, we embrace it.

Many: We are curious about the world; the refractions of light that create a rainbow, the molecules in our bodies that keep us healthy, the magnetic core of our planet that keeps our rotation around the sun.

One: God's handiwork is present all around us, let us celebrate and marvel at the complexity of creation.

Many: Scientific exploration draws us closer to nature and to the fragility of human life, it opens limitless possibilities for creativity and leaves room for the work of the Spirit.

One: Open our eyes O Lord, to seeing and experiencing the world through a variety of lenses, so we may be open to your transformative presence among us.

***HYMN**

Open the Eyes of My Heart (see insert)

CALL TO CONFESSION

People of faith serve the wider community in the form of scientists, doctors, educators, and engineers; together these scientific fields create soaring bridges, navigate intricate blood vessels, and discover new worlds in both the microscope and telescope. All too often we divorce these discoveries from our spiritual lives, seeing them as separate from one another- let us confess our short-sightedness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all creation- forgive us when we seek to compartmentalize human from divine. Help us to see and experience integrated lives that celebrate both the scientific and the spiritual. Allow us to pause in the awesome splendor of your son Jesus as he transcended what humanity thought was possible. Help us evolve as individuals and as a community of faith to be responsive to your work in the world.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The God of the atom and of Adam sees and recognizes you. The God of Moses and mitochondria provides order to our lives. The one who sets light on its course and planets in their orbits is as close to us as a lover's hand within our own. This is a gift of forgiveness and grace that is beyond empirical measurement and yet as real as terrestrial gravity.

ANTHEM

Over My Head

A & M. Podd

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 17:1-9

SERMON

Not Mutually Exclusive

Rev. Holly MillerShank

***HYMN**

Shine Jesus Shine (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

We are called to trust in God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. May our experience in worship today open us to greater understanding of what is possible through the church. May our offerings be transformed from temporal commodities into transformative mechanisms for ministry.

OFFERTORY

Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus

H. Lemmel arr. M. Mier

CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT

Read Books by Black Authors:

It's Black History Month! Enjoy books written by black authors, theologians, and ecologists. Check out "The Intersectional Environmentalist" by Leah Thomas and "Undrowned: Black Feminist Lessons from Marine Mammals" by Alexis Pauline Gumbs.

***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**

Many today are hungering for an authentic spirituality that is intellectually honest and at home in a scientific era. May our offerings help to create a place that encourages spiritual growth and technological advancements. Bless these gifts and us that we might see and experience wider possibilities in the light of God's love. Amen.

***HYMN**

Awesome God (see insert)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

V. Labenske

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.

Open The Eyes Of My Heart

(as published by Integrity Music)

Words and Music by
Paul Baloche

CHORUS

♩ = 112

E5 B/D#

O - pen the eyes of my heart, Lord, o - pen the eyes of my heart; I want to

1, 3 2, 4

5 A2/C# A2 Esus E Esus

see You, I want to see You. To see You

VERSE

B C#m A2 Bsus

high and lift - ed up, shin - ing in the light of Your glo - ry.

14 B C#m F#m11 Bsus D.C.

Pour out Your pow'r and love; As we sing ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.

BRIDGE

19 2 E5 B/D#

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly;

1 2

A2/C# A2 Esus E Esus Esus E

24 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, I want to see You. see You. _____

repeat as desired

CCLI Song # 2298355

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Shine Jesus Shine

Words and Music by
Graham Kendrick

VERSE



1. Lord, the light of Your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
2. Lord, I come to Your awe - some pres - ence, from the shad - ows in -
3. As we gaze on Your king - ly bright - ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the world, shine up - on us,
to Your rad - i - ance; By the blood I may en - ter Your bright - ness,
play Your like - ness; Ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,

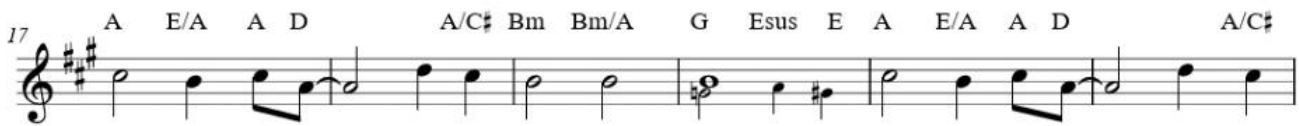


set us free by the truth You now bring us. Shine on me,
search me, try me, con - sume all my dark - ness. Shine on me,
mir - rored here may our lives tell Your sto - ry. Shine on me,

CHORUS



shine on me. Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;
shine on me.
shine on me.



Blaze Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the

23 Bm Bm/A Esus E A E/A A D A/C# Bm E7

na - tions with grace and mer - cy; Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be

INSTRUMENTAL**ENDING**

1, 2 3

D/A E/A D/A E/A D/A A D/A A

light.

Awesome God

Words and Music by
Rich Mullins

VERSE

$\text{♩} = 74$ Cm

1. When He rolls up His sleeves He ain't just "put - tin' on the ritz"— Our
(2. When the) sky was star - less in the void of the night— Our

3 Fm7 Gm7 Cm Gm7/C Cm7

God is an awe - some God! There is thun - der in His foot - steps and
God is an awe - some God! He spoke in - to the dark - ness and cre -

6 Fm7 Gm7 Cm

light - ning in His fists— Our God is an awe - some God! The
a - ted the light— Our God is an awe - some God!

9 Fm7

Lord was - n't jok - ing when He kicked 'em out of E - den, it
Judg - ment and wrath He poured out on Sod - om,

11 Gm7 A♭

was - n't for no rea - son that He shed His blood; His re - turn is ver - y close and so you'd
mer - cy and grace He gave us at the cross. I hope that we have not too

CHORUS

14 Fm7 Gm7 Cm A \flat

bet - ter be be - liev - in' that our God is an awe - some God! Our God is an
quick - ly for - got - ten that our God is an awe - some God!

18 E \flat B \flat Cm A \flat E \flat

awe - some God, He reigns from heav - en a - bove; With wis - dom, pow'r and love—our

CHORUS

23 Fm7 G+7 G7 Cm A \flat E \flat B \flat

God is an awe - some God. Our God is an awe - some God, He reigns from

INSTRUMENTAL

28 Cm A \flat E \flat 1 Fm7 G+7 G7 Cm

heav - en a - bove; With wis - dom, pow'r and love—our God is an awe - some God!

(1) 33 Fm7 Gm7 Fm7 G+7 G7 Cm

2. When the God is an awe - some God! Our

ENDING

Fm7 Gm7 1 Cm 2 Cm

God is an awe - some God! Our God!

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 Deb DelDotto

The Reader is Deb DelDotto

Greeters are Jean Feldkamp and Elaine Shaw

Altar flowers are provided by Joy and Wolfe Goethert in memory of their loved ones.

Liturgy written by Pastor Holly, references to the Wild Goose Worship Group

GIVE HERE:



PRAYER REQUESTS

--Prayers for Steve Donigian; the Scott family on the passing of Brian Scott; Aaron; the Binder family on the passing of their father/grandfather, Ross; Lt Ethan Connors, deployed in the Middle East; Sue Russell's brother, Ronnie; Carol Baker; Joshua S.; Bob Podolski; Stan Holden; Timmy; Jay Scott; James Kelly; Bernice Forrister; Kevin; Ronniy Reis; Bob; Deb Wallace; Anne & Jonathan Phyfe; Jeanine's brother, Douglas Szlompek; Stanley; Sharon; 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 in cities in the United States 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), Chapel

Every Sunday, 7pm: AA, Adkins Room

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

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sunday, 2/15:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room

11:00am: Breakfast Bag Prep, Chapel

5:30pm: MS Youth Group, Cushing Hall

Monday, 2/16:

OFFICE CLOSED: *President's Day*

7:00pm Jammers, Chapel

Tuesday, 2/17:

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor

9:30am: Grief Group, Chapel

12:00pm: Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

Wednesday, 2/18:

11:30am: Martha Circle, Adkins

7:00pm: Ash Wednesday service, Sanctuary

NO Shrewsbury Ringers

Thursday, 2/19:

10:30am: Staff Meeting, CE Library

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

Friday, 2/20:

NO Chimers

Sunday, 2/22:

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

11:00am: Training Choir/Youth Singers, Choir Room

7:00pm: HS Youth Group, Youth Room

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm