

# First Congregational Church

*Gathered in 1723*

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



**Trinity Sunday  
May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

**Rev. Holly MillerShank  
Senior Minister**

***Deacon's Quote of the Day***

***“[T]he fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...  
If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.”***

***~Galatians 5:22-23,25***

**PRELUDE**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

J. Dykes arr. R. Hughes

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, DEACON'S GREETING**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**PASTORAL GREETING**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: How majestic is God's name in all the earth! We see God's glory in the expanse of the heavens.

**Many: All plants and animals are God's creation. All that God has made reflects God's goodness.**

One: We are created in God's image, to relate to God.

We receive great abundance and care from our Creator.

**Many: God blesses us day by day with good things. God asks us to care for all of Creation.**

One: Gather to praise God and marvel at the diversity of God's manifold works.

Celebrate all the ways God is revealed to us.

**Many: We worship the Creator and Sustainer of all things.**

**We rejoice in Christ's gift of Love and in the Power of the Holy Spirit.**

**\*HYMN**

**Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty** (Pilgrim 251)

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

All that God has created is labeled "very good." Life in all its forms is complex and interrelated. Human life is precious and marvelously linked. Let us confess our neglect and irresponsibility in relation to creation and to one another.

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Amazing God, the more we learn of your creation, the more we are filled with awe and wonder. Yet, our vision narrows to our limited concerns. We forget the immense reaches of the stewardship to which you appoint us. We have not taken good care of this tiny planet, Earth, which is our home. Nor have we cared well for one another. O God, help us fulfill our calling. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

We are created in the image of the Holy Ones and blessed with the capacity to reflect God's will in our daily lives. God cares for us and invests us with responsibility. God honors us with high expectations and entrusts the Earth to our care with great confidence. Embrace Christ's forgiveness and love, be empowered to serve.

**ANTHEM**

**Let Me Listen**

C. Silvestri & D. Forrest

*FCC Choir & Assabet Valley Chambersingers*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Selections from Genesis Chapter 1

**MESSAGE**

Created with Purpose

Rev. Holly MillerShank

**\*HYMN**

**Creator God, Creating Still** (NCH 278)

**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.

**MISSION MOMENT:** Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services

## CALL TO OFFERING

What will we return to God for all the bounty of the universe we have been given to enjoy! We cannot count the blessings of life which God supplies to us, may we give in measure to what we have been given.

## OFFERTORY

**We Are** M. Angelou & B. Chilcott  
*Assabet Valley Chambersingers*

## CREATION JUSTICE CHURCH OFFERING THOUGHT *Reverent Nature Walk*

Go on a walk, paying a little more attention than usual to the trees, or the water, or a blade of grass. Take the time to notice and admire. Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor speaks to this spiritual practice of paying attention in her book, "An Altar in the World."

## \*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

Amid our doubts and the temptation to grab life's blessing for our own personal use, we come to dedicate our time, talent and treasure in recognition of God's great acts of Creation. Bless these offerings as you have blessed the Earth O God, use them for good, so that we your children may be called good. Amen

## \*HYMN

**Come Now, Almighty God (NCH 275)**

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

**You Do Not Walk Alone** E. Hagenberg  
*Assabet Valley Chambersingers*

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.

*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 Erik French*

*The Readers are Sally Martin*

*Greeters are Corinna Millershank and JJ Shepard*

*Altar flowers are provided by Sherry and Scotty Robertson in loving memory of their parents, Scotty's brother, George, Sherry's sister, Joy and in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary on June 4th.*

*Liturgy adapted from Taught By Love, Lavon Bayler*

**GIVE HERE:**



## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Prayers for Stan Holden; Patrick Kenney; Bretton; Dan Adam & Sarah Foley on the passing of their brother Scott; Fran Whitney; Cindy and Sarah; Jeanine; the Detrick family on the passing of Aaron's father; Michael; Bob Podolski; Wendy; Kierra; Chris Besaw & family; Jim; the Binder Family on their recent move; Mary; Sherry & Scotty Robertson; Carole Fontaine; Susie and Brian Amos; Ruthie, sister-in-law of Dave & Sue; Aaron; Lt Ethan Connors and all military personnel deployed in the Middle East; Joshua S.; Stan Holden; Timmy; Jay Scott; James Kelly; Bernice Forrister; Ronniy Reis; 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), Youth Room & 214

Every Sunday, 7pm: AA, Adkins Room

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

## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

### **Sunday, 5/31:**

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

11:00am: SYFS Presentation, Adkins

### **Tuesday, 6/2:**

8:00am: Guided Meditation, Parlor

9:30am: Grief Group, Chapel

12:00pm Lectionary @ Lunch, Adkins

7:00pm: Deacons, Adkins

### **Wednesday, 6/3:**

6:30pm: Shrewsbury Ringers, Sanctuary

7:00pm: CLT, Adkins

### **Thursday, 6/4:**

7:00pm: CE Ministry, Youth Room

7:15pm: Senior Choir, Choir Room

### **Friday, 6/5:**

5:30pm: Social Circles "Cheers to the Shrewsbury Pride 5K", Broken Creek Vineyard & Winery

### **Saturday, 6/6:**

9:00am: Shrewsbury Pride 5K, Oak Middle School

### **Sunday, 6/7:**

9:30am: Worship & Sunday School, Sanctuary

11:00am: Theology on Tap Planning Session, Adkins

11:00am: Breakfast bag Prep, Chapel

5:30pm: MS Youth Group, Cushing Hall

7:00pm: HS Youth Group, Youth Room

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm