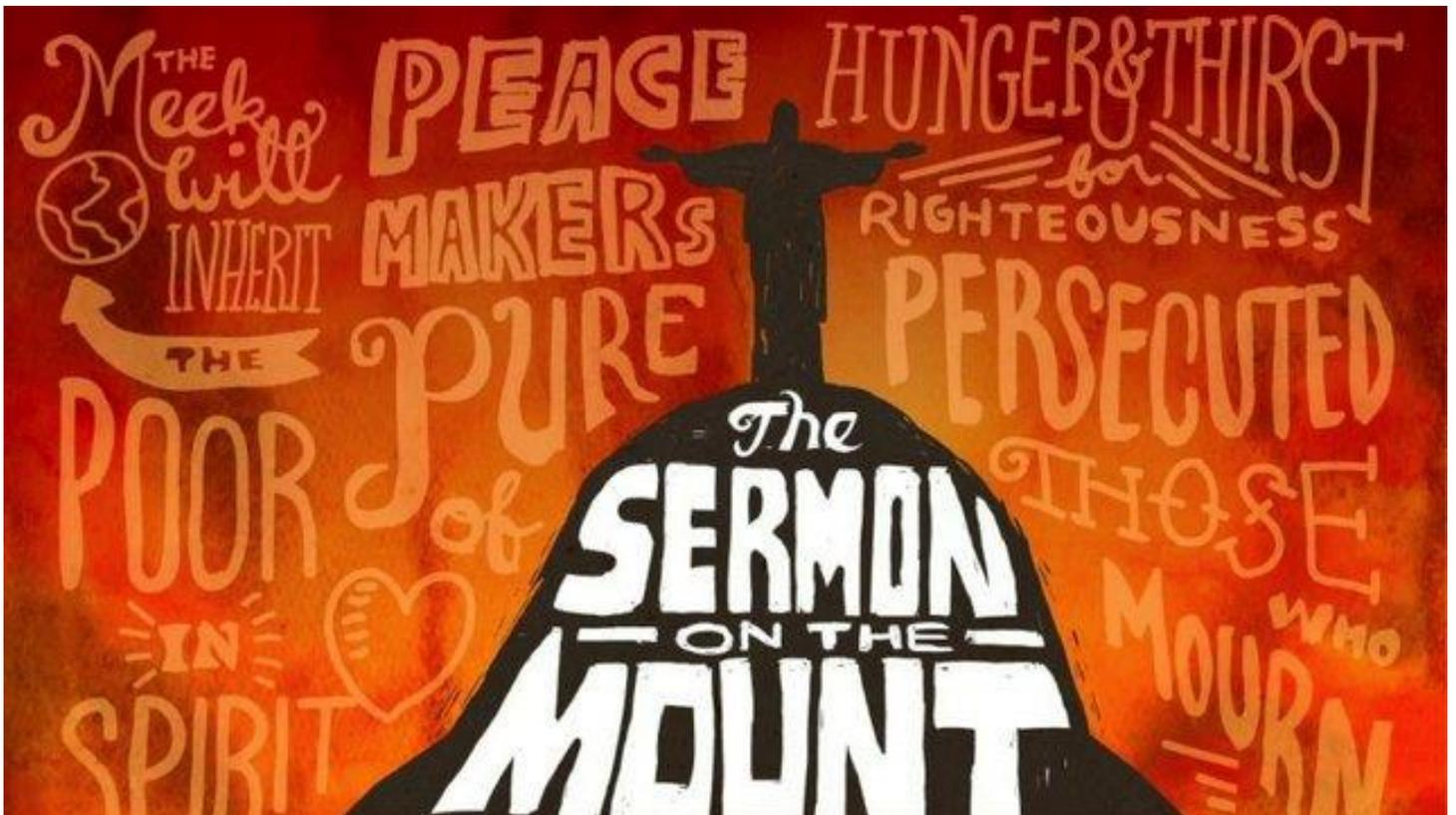




The **First**
Congregational
Church of Ann Arbor



Sunday, September 17, 2017

Whatever Your Story, You're Welcome Here.



The First
Congregational
Church of Ann Arbor

Robert K. Livingston Senior Minister
Darcy A. Crain Associate Minister

Change of Pace Worship Service: 9:00 a.m.
Chapel Communion: 9:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

We Gather to Worship God

Silent Meditation Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”
-Matthew 5:4 NRSV

Prelude Pasticcio
John Langlais (1907-1991)
Dr. Timothy L. Huth, organist

Celebration of Community Rev. Robert K. Livingston

Choral Introit

* **Processional Hymn** “For the Beauty of the Earth” Hymnal #28

* **Call to Worship** Betty Fowler

One: With the rising of the sun in the morning, until the going down of the same, God’s name is to be praised!

All: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

One: This is the day that God has made!

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

One: Let us worship God together. Let us pray.

*** Prayer of Invocation** Loving and gracious God, be with us and among us and within us as we gather as a community of faith this morning. We are a church on a mission, seeking to be a beacon of your love, hope, and freedom. May our life together be a sacrament to your redeeming and welcoming love, through Jesus, who taught us when praying to say together...

*** 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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, 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 Circle

Rev. Darcy A. Crain

(Children are invited downstairs to church school following children's circle)

Give, Share, Rejoice

**Offertory Sentences
and Offertory**

Rev. Darcy A. Crain

Choral Anthem

"With a Voice of Singing"

Dr. James Nisson, Director of Music

“With a Voice of Singing”
Martin Shaw (1875-1958)
Rebecca Jones, piano accompanist

With a voice of singing declare ye this,
and let it be heard, Alleluia. Declare ye this,
and let it be heard, Alleluia.

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.
The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia.

O be joyful in God, all ye lands,
O sing praises to the honour of his name,
make his praise to be glorious.

With a voice of singing declare ye this,
and let it be heard, Alleluia. Alleluia.
Declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia.

*** Doxology** *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**

Rev. Darcy A. Crain

We Grow in Our Faith

* Hymn of Preparation	“O Come to Me, You Weary”	Hymnal #484
Gospel Reading	Matthew 5:1-12 J. B. Phillips Translation	<i>See Text Insert</i>

Matthew 5:1-12
J. B. Phillips Translation

WHEN Jesus saw the vast crowds he went up the hill-side and after he had sat down his disciples came to him.

Then he began his teaching by saying to them,

“How happy are the humble-minded, for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs!

“How happy are those who know what sorrow means, for they will be given courage and comfort!

“Happy are those who claim nothing, for the whole earth will belong to them!

“Happy are those who are hungry and thirsty for goodness, for they will be fully satisfied!

“Happy are the merciful, for they will have mercy shown to them!

“Happy are the utterly sincere, for they will see God!

“Happy are those who make peace, for they will be known as sons and daughters of God!

“Happy are those who have suffered persecution for the cause of goodness, for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs!

“And what happiness will be yours when people blame you and ill-treat you and say all kinds of slanderous things against you for my sake! Be glad then yes, be tremendously glad – for your reward in Heaven is magnificent. They persecuted the prophets before your time in exactly the same way.”

Sermon “The Blessed Journey: Those Who Mourn”

Rev. Robert K. Livingston

Solo “Come Unto Me”

Barbara Scanlon, soloist

Rebecca Jones, piano accompanist

Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God!
Believe also in me. I am the way, the truth and the life.
No man cometh unto the Father, but by me!

Come unto me all ye weary and I will give you rest unto your souls.
Let not your heart be troubled; Nor let it be afraid.

Choral Response

We Go Forth to Live and Serve

* **Recessional Hymn**

“Abide with Me”

Hymnal #99

**Charge and
Benediction**

Rev. Robert K. Livingston

Choral Benediction

(The congregation is invited to join the choir in singing the choral benediction)

“Guide My Feet”

Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

* **Postlude**

“Praeludium”

Johann Pachelbel

Dr. Timothy L. Huth, organist

* Congregation Standing

(Please feel free to remain seated if standing is difficult for you.)

The flowers on the communion table are given to the glory of God in celebration of Jim & Betty Fowler's 65th wedding anniversary by their loving and grateful family.

The postlude music is the concluding part of worship. Following the service, please join us upstairs in Pilgrim Hall for refreshments and fellowship during Friendship Hour!

GOD

28

For the Beauty of the Earth

*St. 1-3, Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.
St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Folliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

O Come to Me, You Weary

*Matt. 11:28-30; John 6:35-40; 11:25-26**William C. Dix, 1867; alt.*

1 "O come to me, you wea - ry, and I will give you rest."
 2 "O come to me, you wan - derers, and I will give you light."
 3 "O come to me, you faint - ing, and I will give you life!"
 4 "All you who come and seek me will nev - er be cast out."

The bless - ed voice of Je - sus, which comes to hearts op - pressed!
 The lov - ing voice of Je - sus, which comes to cheer the night!
 The cheer - ing voice of Je - sus, which stills our in - ner strife!
 The wel - come voice of Je - sus, which drives a - way our doubt!

It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, of par - don, grace, and peace,
 Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, and we had lost our way;
 The e - vil one sur - rounds us and would our faith sub - due,
 And though we are un - wor - thy of love so free and true,

of joy that has no end - ing, of love which does not cease.
 but morn - ing brings us glad - ness and songs for each new day.
 but you are strong with - in us, our cour - age brave and true.
 we hear your call to sin - ners; in trust we come to you.

William C. Dix, manager of a marine insurance company, wrote this hymn after many weeks of illness. Shortly thereafter, he began to recover. William Lloyd, a Welsh farmer and cattle drover, had a good voice and conducted singing classes.

Tune: MEIRIONYDD 7.6.7.6.D.
 Welsh hymn tune
 Attrib. to William Lloyd, 1840

*Luke 24:29; 1 Cor. 15:55**Henry F. Lyte, 1847; alt.*

1 A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need your pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless;
 5 Hold now your cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

The shad - ows deep - en, Lord, with me a - bide;
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 I need your grace to foil the tempt - er's power.
 Ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness;
 Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail, and com - forts flee,
 Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Give me your love my guide and stay to be.
 Where is death's sting? where, grave, your vic - to - ry?
 Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O Christ who chang - es not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still if you a - bide with me.
 In life, in death, O Christ, a - bide with me.

Following the final sermon of his career, Henry F. Lyte handed a copy of this recently written hymn to a relative. He died two months later. The tune by W. H. Monk has contributed greatly to the popularity of the hymn.

Tune: EVENTIDE 10.10.10.10.
 William H. Monk, 1861

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

Welcome! We are glad you joined us this Sunday and look forward to meeting and getting to know you. Please join us after the 10 a.m. service for refreshments and friendship upstairs in Pilgrim Hall. Please don't forget to visit our website at www.fccannarbor.org to learn more about our church.

Sunday Worship During our programming year (September through May), we offer our contemporary Change of Pace worship service in Pilgrim Hall at 9:00 a.m. There is a brief 15-minute communion service in our Douglas Memorial Chapel at 9:30 a.m. Our more traditional worship service is in the sanctuary at 10 a.m., and is normally followed by refreshments and friendship in Pilgrim Hall.

Childcare and Church School Nursery care is available for children newborn to 2 years of age with screened and consistent childcare workers. If you'd like to keep your infant or child with you in worship, you are more than welcome to do so. Please feel free to move about during the service as is needed. Also, during the regular program year, children and youth are invited to leave after our children's circle and attend their church school classes.

Healing Space Where music, meditation, and prayer meet. A monthly meditation service is held on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 7-8 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall. Each session includes music, both silent and guided meditations, a teaching moment of a spiritual practice, and a time for group prayer. Please join us on October 8.

Luncheon Group These luncheon gatherings, hosted by Bob Livingston, meet monthly on the fourth Monday of each month (September through May). They are highly informal, with welcoming and wide-ranging conversations, with the hopeful result of the nourishment of both the mind and body. The luncheons are held at Knight's Restaurant on 2324 Dexter Avenue in Ann Arbor. Our next luncheon will be September 25.

Tuesday Night Series (TNS) At TNS, we view and discuss a variety of relevant and interesting theological issues. We begin our fall series of discussions on Tuesday, September 26. This 6-week series is based on lectures by popular, fascinating, and renowned Bishop John Shelby Spong. We meet on Tuesday nights in the Mayflower Room from 7-8:30 a.m. Please come and join us.

Text Breakfast We gather with Bob Livingston every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. at the Classic Cup Café (4389 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor) for lively discussion. Our next breakfast is scheduled for September 20 where we will continue discussing our sermon series, "The Blessed Journey," reading from Matthew 5:1-12.

Mind & Spirit Book Group The Mind and Spirit Book Group is a community of women of all ages. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10:15-11:45 a.m. in the Mayflower Room. On September 20, we'll begin discussing *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus* by Nabeel Qureshi. For further information please contact Janet Chen at a2janetchen@gmail.com.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANN ARBOR

20/40 Our 20-, 30-, and 40- somethings meet on Wednesday evenings. Our first study this year is from the UCC "A Listen Up Bible Study" where we will explore Ecclesiastes, a four part series that will conclude on October 11. Our next gathering will be September 20 in the Meeting Room, from 6:30-8 p.m. Child care is provided. We will be discussing the first two chapters of Ecclesiastes.

Hurricane Relief The M & O Committee is planning on sending \$1000. to help the hurricane survivors. We are hoping our members and friends will jointly try to match this money....perhaps more than once! This is a devastating time for thousands of people in our country, and we desperately want to do our part no matter how little it seems in the scheme of things. Please help us in this effort by putting a check in the offering plate or send by mail to: 608 E. William, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. On the memo line of the check, please put: Hurricane Fund. Please send your checks so they arrive at the church no later than September 22nd! Thank you SO much!

Grow-a-Row Our summer contribution of produce for Food Gatherers is now over 300 pounds! Thanks to all who have contributed. We will continue to collect every Sunday through September 24. If wish to take produce directly to Food Gatherers, don't forget to fill out a form naming our church as the benefactor.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

YMCA Many Faiths One Voice This fall the Ann Arbor YMCA will be joining with other Ann Arbor organizations to celebrate the diversity of our community during **Welcoming Week, September 15-24**. Welcoming Week is a national initiative seeking to bring together immigrants, refugees, and native-born residents to raise awareness of the benefits of welcoming everyone. On Sunday September 17 there will be a prayer event: **Many Faiths One Voice: Prayers for Unity, tonight, Sunday September 17** 2-3 p.m. West Park Band Shell, in the park across from 215 Chapin Street. Please join us! All events (You can find others listed on the YMCA website at www.annarborymca.org/welcomingweek) are free and open to the public. Darcy will be one of the presenters at this special community event.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 a.m. Change of Pace, Pilgrim Hall
9:30 a.m. Chapel Communion, Douglas Chapel
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Friendship Time, Pilgrim Hall

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 a.m. Change of Pace, Pilgrim Hall
9:30 a.m. Chapel Communion, Douglas Chapel
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Friendship Time, Pilgrim Hall

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

3RD GRADE BIBLES WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Change of Pace, Pilgrim Hall
9:30 a.m. No Chapel Communion
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
(Communion served)
11:00 a.m. Friendship Time, Pilgrim Hall

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

8:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 a.m. Circle of Friends Brunch
9:00 a.m. Change of Pace, Pilgrim Hall
9:30 a.m. Chapel Communion, Douglas Chapel
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Friendship Time, Pilgrim Hall
11:15 a.m. Second Sunday Presentation
7:00 p.m. Healing Space (Pilgrim Hall)

TODAY IN CHURCH SCHOOL

Infants and preschoolers are invited downstairs to church school before the service.

Children (K-12) are invited to go downstairs for church school following children's circle.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Sept. 17 3:00 p.m. AGO Young Persons Organ Recital
Sept. 18 6:00 p.m. Executive Committee (Mayflower)
Sept. 20 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)
10:15 a.m. Mind & Spirit Book Club
6:30 p.m. 20/40 Group
Sept. 25 11:30 a.m. Knights Luncheon Club
Sept. 26 7:00 p.m. TNS (Mayflower Room)
Sept. 27 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)
7:00 p.m. 20/40 Trivia Night (Wolverine)
Oct. 1 Third Grade Bibles (Traditional Worship)
World Communion Sunday (No Chapel)
Oct. 3 7:00 p.m. TNS (Mayflower Room)
Oct. 4 8:30 a.m. Text Breakfast (Classic Cup Café)
6:30 p.m. 20/40 (Meeting Room)
Oct. 5-7 6:30 p.m. Penny Seats Theater (Sanctuary)
Oct. 8 9:00 a.m. Circle of Friends Brunch
11:00 a.m. 2nd Sunday Presentation
7:00 p.m. Healing Space (Pilgrim Hall)
Oct. 9 6:15 p.m. Trustees Meeting
Oct. 10 7:00 p.m. TNS (Mayflower Room)

STAFF

Senior Minister	Robert K. Livingston (ext. 554)
Associate Minister	Darcy A. Crain (ext. 552)
Minister Emeritus	Terry N. Smith
Minister Emerita	Dorothy Lenz
Interim Director of C.E.	Rachel Dudley (ext. 553)
Director of Music	James C. Nissen (ext. 555)
Music Worship Leader	Terry Farmer (ext. 557)
Director of Music Emeritus	Willis Patterson
Organist	Timothy L. Huth
Organist Emerita	Marilyn Mason
Pianist	Rebecca Jones
Chapel Organist	Katherine Johnson
Hand Chimes	Cindy Bylsma
Bookkeeper	Nancy Sauve (ext. 560)
Administrative Assistant	Renee Bovee (ext. 550)
Wedding Coordinator	Betty Jahnke
Custodian	Steffen Gelletly
Sound/AV Techs	Russ Wilcox-Cline, Brandon Bovee, Greg Eggleston

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