

HILLS CHURCH



CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

207 Washington Street, Wellesley Hills, MA 02481 • 781-235-4424

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, July 18, 2021

PRELUDE: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Dietrich Buxtehude
Marjorie Ness, guest organist

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: I sing of your might;
I sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning.

All: **For you have been a fortress for me,
a refuge in the day of my distress.**

One: O my strength, I sing praises to you,
O God, for you are my fortress.

All: **You are the God who shows me steadfast love.**

HYMN: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
(As printed)

Ein' feste Burg

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God once more we come before you.
We confess that the events of the last fifteen months
have at times overwhelmed us.
Our blind trust in leaders to protect and defend us
turned into mistrust, vulnerability, and fear.
Our glorified and exaggerated belief in the righteousness and
exceptionalism of our country turned into shame.
Our belief in the oneness of our people
turned into a bunker mentality of us versus them.
Our energy to fight every battle and right every wrong
turned into exhaustion and despair.

Forgive us for not placing our trust in you from the beginning,
for not facing the hard truth about our past, our present,
and our future, for not realizing that the prosperity and
safety of our lives is offset by the poverty
and hopelessness of others.

Forgive us for allowing ourselves to be overcome
by evil and exhaustion.

Help us remember that,

*“When we have exhausted our store of endurance.
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources
Our Father’s full giving is only begun.”*

(Howard Thurman)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

GLORIA

Music by Alice Jordan

**Glory to God the Creator,
and to the Christ,
and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever.
Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Kelly Ford

Second Samuel 7:1-7

Ephesians 2:19-22

Ephesians 6:10-18

SERMON

Jim McKinney

SOLO: Were You There?

African-American Spiritual

Shannon Lebrón, mezzo-soprano

PRAYER CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

OUR 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.

HYMN: Lift Every Voice and Sing (*as printed*) *Lift Every Voice*

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Alone to God Be Highest Praise *J. Michael Bach*

Jim McKinney is a long time member of the Hills Church, and preaches regularly at the Wednesday Night Lay Worship. Jim is a former lawyer and graduate of Harvard Divinity School.

We welcome Marjorie Ness as our guest organist today. Marjorie retired from Fitchburg State University in December 2015, having taught in the Humanities department, and directed the Choral Arts program. She has just completed an interim as Director of Music and Organist for Wesley United Methodist Church, Worcester for most of 2018, preceded by 3 other interims. Her degrees are in organ performance from Oberlin College, Northwestern University and the University of Iowa, Iowa City. She resides in Lancaster, MA.

Preaching	Jim McKinney
Liturgist	Judy Swahnberg
Lay Reader	Kelly Ford
Soloists	Shannon Lebrón Christian Figueroa Stephen Lebrón

GOD
IS STILL
SPEAKING

WE ARE AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION.
NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE,
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE
ON LIFE'S JOURNEY,
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Based on Psalm 46

Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805-1890

EIN' FESTE BURG 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7.

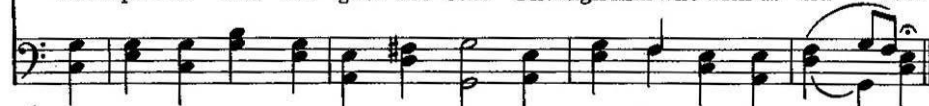
Melody by Martin Luther, 1483-1546



1 A might-y for-tress is our God, A bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;
2 Did we in our own strength con-fide, Our striv-ing would be los-ing,
3 And though this world, with dev-ils filled, Should threat-en to un-do us,
4 That word a-bove all earth-ly powers, No thanks to them, a-bid-eth;



Our help-er he a-mid the flood Of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing.
Were not the right man on our side, The man of God's own choos-ing.
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri-umph through us.
The Spir-it and the gifts are ours Through him who with us sid-eth.



For still our an-cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is he; Lord Sab-a-oth his
The prince of dark-ness grim, We trem-ble not for him; His rage we can en-
Let goods and kin-dred go, This mor-tal life al-so; The bod-y they may



great, And armed with cru-el hate, On earth is not his e-qual.
name. From age to age the same, And he must win the bat-tle.
dure, For lo, his doom is sure: One lit-tle word shall fell him.
kill; God's truth a-bid-eth still, His king-dom is for-ev-er. A-men.



Lift Every Voice and Sing

D G B7 Em G D#dim7 Em

1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

Em Am B7 C Am G Edim7 D7

ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty;
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

D G B7 E Am B7 C

let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - ening skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast, by thy might, led us in - to the light,

Edim7 G D7 G

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Words: James Weldon Johnson, 1871-1938, alt.
 Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

U.S.A.
 LIFT EVERY VOICE

G D Em D

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered,
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee,

G D Cm G G#dim7

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

D7 D G B7 E Am B7

us; fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
 tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er

C Edim7 G D7 G

gun, let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

“Lift Every Voice and Sing,”

Words by James Weldon Johnson; Music by J. Rosamond Johnson

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-737581. All rights reserved.