



## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### MAY 22, 2022

East Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Milton, MA

Rev. Shelly Davis, Pastor  
Lynn Salmonsen, Organist and Choir Director

### AN INVITATION TO CENTER OUR HEARTS

“Mystery is at the heart of creativity. That, and surprise.”

—Julia Cameron, writer, poet, songwriter, filmmaker and playwright,  
perhaps best known for her book,  
*The Artist’s Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*



*The (\*) is an invitation to rise in body or spirit as you are able.  
For Prayers and Responses in **BOLD** we lift our voices in unison.*

### PRELUDE

*What Brought Us Together*

Burkhardt

### WELCOME

### FFP (Faithful Future Planning) MOMENT

### \*OUR EASTER ACCLAMATION

One: Christ is Risen!  
**ALL:** Christ is Risen indeed!

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather to worship the God who inhabits our world  
**Many:** and indwells our lives.  
One: We need not look up to find God,  
**Many:** we need only to look around:  
                  within ourselves,  
                  beyond ourselves,  
                  into the eyes of another.  
One: We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God,  
**Many:** we need only listen to the music of life,  
                  the words and sounds of children,  
                  the questions of the curious,  
                  the rhythm of a heartbeat.  
One: We are here to worship the God who inhabits our world  
**Many:** and indwells our lives.

—posted on the Presbyterian Church USA website.  
[https://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/peacemaking/pdf/mlk-resources.pdf](https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/peacemaking/pdf/mlk-resources.pdf)

### \*HYMN

Bring Many Names

verses 1, 2, 3, and 6

Black 11

## OPENING PRAYER

## TIME OF RECONCILIATION

### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We come to confession and we roll the stones away from the tombs of our lives in the presence and love of our risen Christ.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of empty tombs and emptier people:  
when we hesitate to speak of your hope,  
forgive us, and give us a voice.**  
**When we find it difficult to love one another,  
forgive us, and give us fresh compassion.**  
**When we want to stand with the high and mighty,  
forgive us, and seat us next to the poor and oppressed.**  
**When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts,  
forgive us, and send us out to share your grace.**  
**When we cannot believe your Word of new life,  
forgive us, and fill us with your joy. Amen.**

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### ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God's love longs to be resurrected in us—even us. Thanks be to God!

### \*WE SHARE A SIGN OF UNITY AND RECONCILIATION

As We Pass The Peace of Christ

### A TIME FOR ALL AGES

*As our children and teachers now depart for Sunday School,  
we lift our voices and sing the first verse of our opening hymn once again:*

*Young, growing God, eager, on the move,  
Saying no to falsehood and unkindness,  
Crying out for justice, giving all you have:  
Hail and Hosanna,  
Young, growing God!*

*[Brain Wren, 1989; No. 11, The New Century Hymnal]*

**ANTHEM** Obey the Spirit of the Lord Arr. DeCormier

**SCRIPTURE READING** [Acts 16:9-15](#)

**MESSAGE** Visions Are Surprising Things Pastor Shelly

### A WORD OF GRATITUDE

**OFFERTORY** Jabula Jesu (Zulu Folk Song) Arr. Hatfield  
We say, be joyful with Jesus  
We say, play, have a good time.  
Listen!

## \*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God for all that love has done,  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

## WE PRAY TOGETHER

SHARING OUR JOYS, SORROWS, AND UNCERTAINTIES  
(through our Zoom chat and on the green prayer cards in our pew racks)  
God is good /All the time  
All the time / God is good.

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### OUR LORD'S PRAYER (saying Debts and Debtors)

**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.**

We have come to know God and the kingdom of God by many different names and images. Please use the ones that speak from your heart today.  
(e.g. Father, Mother, Creator, God...Kingdom, New Earth, New Realm, Kin-dom...)

## \*HYMN

[Let Every Christian Pray](#)

Black 261

## \*BLESSING

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks out with compassion to the world.  
Yours are the feet with which Christ is to go about doing good.  
Yours are the hands with which Christ is to bless people now.

So go—and **be** the body of Christ.  
Christ is risen!  
Alleluia!  
Amen.

—adapted from St Teresa of Avila

## \*CHORAL BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Prelude in F Major*

Bach

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## OUR VISION

Drawn together  
in the mystery of God  
and led by Christ,  
we will grow in the Spirit  
by engaging faith,  
embracing change,  
and seeking justice for all



## OUR MISSION

Building and serving community  
in Christ's name.



**HALLELUJAH!  
WE'VE NEVER DONE IT THIS WAY BEFORE!**

**THIS WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022 @ 7:00pm**

**For Hybrid Worship and the Baptism of James Flores AT East Church**

**REMEMBER**

**SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2022 @ 10:00am**

**East Church shares Hybrid Worship AT First Congregational Church in Milton**

With the blessing of our Deacons and Church Council East Church is excited to announce that we will gather for hybrid worship and the baptism of James Flores on WEDNESDAY evening, May 25 at 7:00pm.

The particular needs of this young family and the loved ones they want to gather from afar for the sacrament of baptism, our commitment to baptism as a central celebration in the life of the local church that embodies the universal church in a particular place, has led us to this atypical date and time.



AND NOW we are excited to share that we have invited our friends and neighbors from First Congregational to join us for this hybrid worship service with baptism.

THEN, on Sunday, May 29 at 10:00am, every one of us is invited to worship with First Congregational Church, 495 Canton Ave, Milton, in their building or by joining their live stream on YouTube. [Please note: this Sunday worship will be in lieu of worship in our East Church building and on Zoom.]

This is an exciting opportunity to join with our UCC siblings for a time of combined worship and fellowship. We hope to see YOU at East Church on Wednesday, May 25 @ 7:00pm and First Congregational on Sunday, May 29 @ 10:00am as we worship together as friends and neighbors.

