

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MONTAGUE,  
TRINITARIAN, MONTAGUE, MA**

**May 7, 2023      4<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Easter**

*Bold italics indicate the work of the people.*

*\*Indicates places to stand if able to.*

The hymnal for today is the Black Hymnal

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

*Once we were not a people*

*Now we are God's people.*

*Once we ate food that did not satisfy*

*Now we drink the spiritual milk of the Lord*

*Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

*The Lord is our rock and our redeemer.*

**UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

*O God, be present with us now and always. Dwell within our hearts. With your light and your Spirit guide our souls, our thoughts and our actions, that we may share your Word and that your healing power may be in us and in your church universal.*

(Philip Melancthon 1540)

**\*HYMN #25**      "O God Our Help in Ages Past"      (verses 1-4)

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Gracious God, we acknowledge that we are not what you have called us to be. We have stifled our gifts, avoided opportunities to offer kindness, and been quick to take offense. We have hidden from challenges to step forward in service and excused ourselves from taking risks for the sake of peace and justice. Forgive us and*

*grant us courage to exercise the great power for good that you extend to us.*

**\*ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

In Christ we are forgiven.

*Thanks be to God!*

**\*A Gloria**

*From all that dwells below the skies, Let the Creator's praise arise!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Let the Redeemer's name be sung,*

*Let God the Spirit loose each tongue!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

New Testament

**Acts 7:55-60**

Epistle

**1 Peter 2:2-10**

Gospel

**John 14:8-14**

**SERMON**

"A Royal Priesthood"

**HYMN # 451**

"Be Thou My Vision"

**PRAYERS**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

A Litany of Intercession

(Black Hymnal #878)

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*(sung to the tune of Old 100<sup>th</sup>)*

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*With gratitude for all that you provide, dear God, and to the service of the world you love so much, we dedicate these gifts and our lives to you, in Jesus name. Amen*

## COMMUNION & LORD'S PRAYER

(see insert)

**\*HYMN #588** "Let Justice Flow Like Streams"

## **\*BENEDICTION**

**Response** (To the tune of Edelweiss)

*May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever, grant you peace, perfect peace, strength in every endeavor; lift up your eyes and then see his face, and his grace forever; May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever.*

## **POSTLUDE**

(Please remain seated for the Postlude)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The Deacon for May is Lorraine York-Edberg
- There is no fellowship hour today due to May Day Festivities.
- Many thanks to Andy Chen, our musician this morning!
- Volunteers to set up a May Day table and with bake sale, see Ann Fisk.
- Rev. Koyama's office hours are Tuesday am. Call ahead 808-282-6711.

## **PRAYER GARDEN**