THE FIRST CHURCH OF WEST BRIDGEWATER

United Church of Christ & Unitarian Universalist Association

August 20, 2017 Service of Word 9:30 A.M.

Gathering Songs Cameron Shave, Pianist/Trumpeter Welcome Rev. Ashton

Centering Music "Sanctuary"

Choral Response " H No. 555

Call to Worship Norma Anderson

L: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

P: Weave us together in unity and love.

L: Let us worship God.

* Hymn "Because He Lives" H No. 204

Chalice Lighting Norma Anderson

Wisdom Henri Nouwen

"Compassion asks us to go where it hurts,

to enter into the places of pain,

to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anger."

Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human.

Lighting

We light this candle to affirm and promote acceptance of one another and spiritual growth in our congregation.

Prayer

O God in whom we live and move and have our being, we have gathered in your presence to sing your praise. Gather up our prayers into one harmony of worship and service, that we might truly be one body in Christ. Accept the words of our mouths and the thoughts of our hearts, for we are yours. Amen.

Time of Reconciliation

Invitation "Create in Me a Clean Heart" H No. 414

Reading "Always Contrite" by Mary Luti

Confession Silent Prayers

Assurance "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus" H No. 146

Scripture Psalm 133 H No. 716

(Congregation sings choral response . . . Leader reads odd verses. . . congregation reads even verses)

Pastoral Prayers "Cares Chorus"

I cast all my cares upon you; I lay all my burdens down at your feet and anytime that I don't know what to do; I cast all my cares upon you.

- L: We pray for all those who are in need of healing in mind, body, spirit, and soul...
- P: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.
- L: We pray for those who have died . . .
- P: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.
- L: We remember those who suffer from abuse, oppression, violence, injustice, and war . . . We pray for the peace of Christ to enter every heart that God's goodwill be realized on earth.
- P: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.
- L: We rejoice with those who rejoice . . .
- P: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.
- L: We are mindful of those who are unable to gather in communities of faith on your Sabbath and of those in need of travel mercies . . .
- P: Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

The sympathy of the church is extended to Dennis Crosby on the death of his brother, Jeff, who passed away on Monday, August 14th, and to Anna Mae Child whose aunt, Patricia Pitaro, passed away on Sunday, August 13th.

Silent prayer... Lord's Prayer... "Eagle's Wings" chorus, H No. 385

Scripture Matthew 15:10-20 (Pew Bible pg. 949)

Sermon "Acknowledging Our Faults" Rev. Ashton

Hymn "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" H No. 239

Thank Offerings

Invitation Jean Upton, Deacon
Anthem Choir
*Doxology H No. 563

*Offering Prayer

* Hymn "I Saw the Light" H No. 320

* Benediction

First Church President

L: Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,

P: From despair to hope, from fear to trust.

L: Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;

P: Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,

L: Let peace fill our universe.

* Congregational Response "Let There Be Peace" H No. 308

* Postlude

Cameron Shave, Pianist/Trumpeter

On Sunday, August 13, we collected \$ 819.00 towards meeting our weekly budget need of \$1,451.00.

The Mission and Outreach Committee has named the month of August as "Drinks" month. Please bring in your donations on any Sunday to help stock the shelves of the W.B. Food Pantry.

A Message from Jane Hatch...To those of you who have offered to donate gift certificates for the Raffle Calendar, would you please have the gift certificates in before **August 30**th so that the calendar can be printed before Park Day which will be held on Sunday, September 10th. Thank you for your contribution and help!

THINK VACATION, THINK CHURCH FAIR!?!? YES! As you enjoy your vacation this Summer or Fall, please keep our church fair in mind. Donate a "fun" souvenir from your trip to our "Mystery Travels" table appearing at the fair in November. Keep it simple and make sure it has the name of your destination on it. For details, see Cindy Kwan or Jane Hatch.

THE FIRST CHURCH

WEST BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Est. 1651



"We the members of The First Church of West Bridgewater united by the love of one another and guided by the teachings of Jesus, hold it to be our purpose to maintain a welcoming house for the worship of God; to teach and study the lessons of our faith, to develop programs for those in need; and to sponsor fellowship opportunities. All this we support in order to build a mutually sustaining and caring community of faith."