

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



## Land Acknowledgement

We gather, acknowledging the land we are on, the rocks and waters of this land, the plants and animals of this land, the air we share.

We also acknowledge the original people of this land, including the Nipmuc, Pawtucket, and Massa-adchu-es-et People(s), as well as the legacy of the Natick Praying Indians, and all those who have walked on this land before us, as well as our own ancestors.

We remember ourselves as part of a web extending back in time, forward in time, and in every direction in time.



# Welcome To Worship at FCC Natick!

It doesn't matter to us if you grew up in a church or never set foot in one before. You matter to us. We welcome you as you are, because we believe that we are all embraced by God's inclusive and extravagant love.

As a congregation, we strive to practice radical inclusivity and extravagant hospitality. When we gather for worship, we want everyone to have access, to be comfortable, and feel welcomed.

If you are new here, we invite you to introduce yourself to the pastor, and fill out the card in the *Welcome Newcomers* brochure and place it in the offering plate so that we can extend a more personal welcome!

To help you worship with comfort and meaning:

- We invite you to change any portion of today's service to language in which you feel included. We welcome all into God's presence and worship God in wholeness.
- **Large Print Bibles and worship bulletins** are available from the ushers. The bulletin is also available in digital form using the weekly QR code.
- **Noise cancelling headphones** are available from the ushers.
- ***Listening Everywhere*** app is supported. (Download to a smartphone, bring headphones.)

**Childcare for infants through age 3** is available. There is a video link to the sanctuary for parents who wish to stay with their child. There is a changing station in the nursery.

- **Verbal cues** are used along with the bulletin text to direct the congregation. For instance, "Please rise in body or in spirit."
- Our building is **handicap accessible**. This includes handicap parking spaces, a handicap entrance near the lot, an all-floors handicap elevator, and handicap restrooms on 2 floors.
- There is a **gender-neutral bathroom** on the second floor.
- There is an **Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)** on the wall on the ground floor elevator lobby. When turned on, it provides step-by-step instructions.
- **Narcan** doses are available via the ushers or the church office.

We realize that our best intentions and efforts may sometimes fall short. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do. Speak to an usher or drop a note in a collection plate.

# Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 13, 2025

It's not hard work to distance yourself from another person.  
The real work is to draw them close and lift them up.  
- Rabbi Nachman of Breslov,  
in The Amen Effect by Sharon Brous

## PRELUDE

Take Me to the Alley

Gregory Porter

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Sarabeth Guptill

One: With palms we call out to praise You, O God!

**All: Hosanna, Save us, Emmanuel, God with us!**

One: With clenched fists we strike against You, O God!

**All: Hosanna, Save us, Emmanuel, God with us!**

One: With hearts in pain we reach out to you, O God!

**All: Hosanna, Save us, Emmanuel, God with us!**

One: With angry voices we shout against You, O God!

**All: Hosanna, Save us, Emmanuel, God with us!**

One: With bitter tears we cry out for You, O God!

**All: Hosanna, Save us, Emmanuel, God with us!**

One: With nothing but our human selves, we come to worship You, O God!

**All: Free us, Save us, Heal us, and Be with us! Amen and Amen!**

## PALM SUNDAY PROCLAMATION

Luke 19:28-40

## \* OPENING HYMN

*Draw the Circle Wide*

Music & Lyrics by Gordon Light

### ***Chorus:***

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still

Let this be our song, no one stands alone

Standing side by side, draw the circle wide

God the still point of the circle, round whom all creation turns

Nothing lost but held forever, in God's gracious arms

### ***Chorus:***

Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small  
Let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call.

***Chorus:***

Let the dreams we dream be larger than we've ever dreamed before  
Let the dream of God be in us, open every door

***Chorus:***

**STATEMENT OF FAITH\***

We believe the day is coming  
when God's grace will change the human heart,  
and we will live as one with every living thing.

We believe the day is coming  
when Christ's compassion will fill the earth,  
and no one will do harm, be hurt, or feel alone.

We believe the day is coming  
when the Spirit's freedom will unbind our souls,  
and we will live generous lives for each other  
with a joy no circumstance can alter.

We believe the day is coming,  
and we wait and work for it with steadfast hope,  
for God has promised it, and God is faithful.

**SHARING GOD'S PEACE**

In person we rise to greet each other with a wave, bow or a high five.  
And we send God's peace to those participating from home!

One: God's peace be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

**\*SONG OF CELEBRATION**      *Amen We Praise Your Name O God*

Amen, we praise your name, O God. (Sing amen!) (2X)

Amen, amen. Amen, amen.

Amen, we praise your name, O God.

**WORD FOR ALL AGES**

## **MUSICAL RESPONSE**

*Go Down, Moses*

After *Word for All Ages*, children (age 3-grade 6) depart for Sunday School (*Godly Play & Connect*). Parents may accompany children and return to worship once they are settled.

## **READING**

How Did I Ever Believe it Would Be Otherwise

by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

## **REFLECTION**

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

## **ANTHEM**

I Remember, I Believe

Bernice Johnson Reagon

## **GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER**

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYER OF JESUS**

Inhale: *I am not okay*

Exhale: *God, with you I am safe\*\**

Our God, 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.

## **RESPONSE**

*Hear Our Prayer*

Willie Sordillo

Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

Thank you for this day, help me walk your way;

forgive me when I stray; these three things I pray.

Amen, amen. Amen.

## **OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR SUBSTANCE**

### **OFFERING INVITATION**

### **OFFERTORY**

Equinox

John Coltrane

As the plates are passed from person to person, we share our financial gifts.  
Even if we are not adding money to the place, we offer thoughts of gratitude.

As you hold the plate, you might breathe deeply and pray,

“May all the earth be healthy and whole.”

## **\*SONG OF PRAISE**

Old Hundredth

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.

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

### **\* SENDING HYMN**

*Singing for Our Lives*  
new lyrics by Willie Sordillo

Holly Near

We are a gentle, angry people, and we are  
Singing, singing for our lives  
We are a gentle, angry people, and we are  
Singing, singing for our lives

We are a land of many colors, and we are . . .

We are queer and straight together, and we are . . .

We are a justice-seeking people, and we are . . .

We are a broken, healing people, and we are . . .

We are a gentle, angry people, and we are . . .

## **BLESSING**

### **POSTLUDE**

New World Coming

Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil

During Lent, we will use resources from gifted writers:

\*A Statement of Faith by Rev. J. Mary Luti.

\*\*Pastoral prayers will include breath meditations by Cole Arthur Riley in Black Liturgies.

# Calendar for Apr. 13 – Apr. 20, 2025

More at [fccnatick.org/events](https://fccnatick.org/events)

**Sun, Apr. 13**

## **PALM SUNDAY**

- 9:00AM *Adult Faith Group*
- 10:30AM *Worship with Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary*
- 11:30AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry*
- 11:45AM *Mini-Pantry Parade*
- 12:30PM *West Virginia Work Camp Info Session in the Chat Rm #116*

**Wed, Apr. 16**

- NOON *Mid-Week Connection, Zoom [ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek](https://ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek)*
- 7:00PM *FCC Coordinating Council in the Chat Room #116*

**Thurs, Apr. 17**

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

- 12:30PM *Lunch Bunch in the Vestry*
- 6:30PM *Maundy Thursday Supper in the Vestry*
- 7:15PM *Maundy Thursday Worship Service in the Sanctuary*

**Sat., Apr 19**

## **EASTER VIGIL**

- 7:00PM *Begins in the Sanctuary*  
*Ends at 7:00AM Sun., Apr 20th*

**Sun, Apr. 20**

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

- 9:00AM *Adult Faith Group*
- 10:30AM *Worship with Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary*
- after worship *Easter Egg Hunt*
- 11:30AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry*

**Thanks to our Coffee Hour hosts: Gail Martin & Carolyn Williams**

## **TODAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 13**

### **PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**Sunday, April 13, 10:30am, onsite and online**

We will wave palms and shout Hosanna! The Palm Sunday banners will parade through our sanctuary. Kids will decorate eggs for Chaplains on the Way, a ministry with unhoused folks in Waltham; see Sarallyn if you can provide some hardboiled eggs (*please tell her in advance to make sure no precious eggs are wasted*).

### **WELCOME BACK HARMONY GROVE!**

This morning, we welcome the musical stylings of Willie Sordillo, Zoe Krohne, George Russell Jr., and Ron Mahdi, aka Harmony Grove! Their mission is to entertain while presenting a vision which offers hope, joy, and possibility in an often troubled world.

## **TODAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 13 continued**

### **2025 EASTER LILIES: DEDICATIONS TODAY, SUN., APR 13**

In person dedications and donations for lilies **TODAY, April 13th**, after worship (in the Narthex). You may also stop by the office during the week, email the office at [admin@fccnatick.org](mailto:admin@fccnatick.org) or call the church office at 508-653-0971. **Dedications & donations deadline: Tuesday, April 15th** to be printed in the Easter bulletin.

### **WEST VIRGINIA WORK CAMP 2025 ~ FINAL INFORMATION SESSION Sunday., Apr.13th, 12:30pm, Chat Rm #116**

**Registrations are due by May 1<sup>st</sup>.** We will be planning our transportation and lodging needs for the trip. If you can't attend the meeting but are interested, please contact **Bob Seiche** at: [bobSeiche@gmail.com](mailto:bobSeiche@gmail.com) or **Sarallyn Keller** [sarallyn@fccnatick.org](mailto:sarallyn@fccnatick.org)

### **MEAT SHOOT: WEST VIRGINIA WORK CAMP FUNDRAISER Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> ~ Location host: Framingham Eagles**

**HELP BUILD MOUNT PASTA! - COLLECTION FOR MONTH OF APRIL.**  
Help us build a mountain of 1,000 pasta boxes in the sanctuary. All pastas are welcome (*except lasagna*). On May 1, we'll caravan our nearly half-ton of pasta to **A Place to Turn!**

**FCCN YARD SALE - Drop your *Merch at the Church* \*See schedule below:**  
**\*Sundays 4/13 & 4/27**, before or after church, **\*April Vacation Week: 4/19-4/26 ~**  
Drop Off: by appointment. Also: **\*Wed 4/30, 6-8pm, \*Thurs, 5/1, 6-8pm, \*Fri, 5/2, 6-8pm.** **Contact:** Gail Martin: 617-283-9180 or Kirsten McDonough: 508-241-2735.  
**We need volunteers. If you can help, please go to SignUp Genius online.**

## **HOLY WEEK 2025**

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER & SERVICE**

**Thursday, April 17, 6:30pm Supper in person, 7:15pm Worship  
(onsite & YouTube @ <https://youtube.com/live/lazoA9Y3XG8?feature=share>)**

In this Holy Week, we gather to face the pain in Jesus' story, in our world, and in our own lives. We begin with a potluck supper. Then we will share the stories of Jesus' last days and hours and hear his commandment that we love one another. We will offer Communion, sing hymns, and hear music from the choir. If you are able, please bring a non-perishable contribution for the Common Good Mini-Pantry.



## **HOLY WEEK 2025 continued**

### **EASTER VIGIL**

**Saturday, April 19, 7pm, through Sunday, April 20, 7am, onsite**

Sign up in the vestry to reserve your time slot. **Signup closes Thursday night, April 17, 2025.** All are invited. Contact members of the Worship Team if you have any questions: David Coulter ([coulterdl@aol.com](mailto:coulterdl@aol.com)), Jeannine Keedy ([jkeedy@rcn.com](mailto:jkeedy@rcn.com)), or Ric Ripley ([FWR334@yahoo.com](mailto:FWR334@yahoo.com)), or the church office ([admin@FCCNatick.org](mailto:admin@FCCNatick.org)).

### **EASTER WORSHIP**

**Sunday, April 20, 10:30am, onsite and online**

All ages join together for worship full of celebration and joy! Following worship, we'll hold our annual Easter egg hunt outside, sponsored by Faith Formation! Teens who would like to help with the egg hunt, see Sarallyn.

## **ON THE HORIZON**

### **FCCN YARD SALE ~ SAVE THE DATE**

**Sat., May 3, 9:00am-2:00pm**

### **WELCOME LUNCH: SAVE THE DATE!**

**May 18, after Worship ~ Chat Room #116**

“New” folks at FCC Natick are invited to lunch on Sunday, May 18th! Especially for folks who have been attending FCCN for a year or less, this is a great chance to meet folks, share thoughts, and get questions answered. We'll provide the food, the fun, and childcare! Please contact Rev. Cindy to RSVP or with any questions at [revcindyfccn@gmail.com](mailto:revcindyfccn@gmail.com)

# PRAYER LIST

**Sharing Your Prayer Requests.** Prayer concerns and celebrations to be shared during worship can be done so verbally (raise your hand to be recognized) or in writing (use provided notecards) or emailed to [prayers@fccnatick.org](mailto:prayers@fccnatick.org).

Eric Carricker	The McLaren Family	Friends and Family of Tommy Zack
Chris Stefanatos	Lois and Pam Dotter	Friends & Family of Kathleen Grant
Kenny Hoffman	Katie	Amy Appleyard and family, <i>(following the loss of her father, Dennis)</i>
Susan & Bob	Char Hannon	Family and friends of Richard Conway
Angela	Irene & Walter	Family and friends of Alice Bridinger
Joel	Charles	The family and friends of Wayne Smith <i>(Rev. Cindy's uncle)</i>
Debbie Collins	Shirley Lilly	Tammy, daughter Ashley & Veronica
Jeanna B.	Aunt Gwen	The family and friends of Rev. John Lilly
Aunt Kathy	Robin and Laura	Declan and his parents Beth and Kenny
Eric	Uncle Al & Aunt Deb	The family and friends of Barbara Shirley
Sarah Kazim	Paul S.	Myriam's brother Alex
Joan Person	Don & Heather C.	Jennie Lynch
Brian J.	Mary Cerreto	Mary Anderson
Beverly Newell	Connie Sullivan	Peg & Charlie Ostrander
Anna Hayes	Phil Jennings	Frankie Notarbartolo
John Sullivan	Faye Bishop	Melissa and Tiffany Wallace
Ronnie	Tommy Hannon	Ann and George Schmidt
Jane Hall	Paul	Charles Gobron
Jenna Hayes	Anne	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey
Abby Robbins	Molly	Pat & Jane Conaway
Natalie Friend	Evelyn and Family	Peace for the world and in everyone's day
Jayne Hayes	Mike McCormick	All immigrant families seeking justice
Myriam's Mom	Malfrid Abrahamsen	The people of Ukraine & Russia
Robbins Family	Bob Brown	The people of Santa Maria Tzeja
Jackie Snizek	Tanya	Angels of Hope in Uganda
Dorothy Young	Doug Shirley	Overdose victims
	Diane	

The prayer list is updated periodically. If you find a name has been rotated off the list for whom you would like continuing prayers, please contact Prayer List Coordinator Linda Champion at [ljchampion17@gmail.com](mailto:ljchampion17@gmail.com) or the office at 508-653-0971. Also, if a known issue has been resolved, please let us know. Thank you to all for your care and prayers.

# Welcome To Worship at FCC Natick!

**Offering.** Every week we practice the spiritual discipline of generosity by sharing our financial resources. We call this the Offering. We offer multiple ways to give. In person we pass the plate through the congregation, where donations by cash and check are welcome. By mail, checks may be sent to the church office. Online (get there using the *QR code* or by visiting [ucc.fccnatick.org/give](http://ucc.fccnatick.org/give)), you may give using a credit card. But if this is your first time with us, please consider yourself our guest and just pass the plate along. If you'd like to learn more about money at FCCN, please see the pastor.



**Communion.** We usually celebrate communion on the first Sunday of the month. Folks online are invited to have a bit of food and drink handy. In person, we serve communion in several different ways, so the worship leader will instruct you. Our communion table is open to all who find meaning there, regardless of age, membership, or belief.

**Photography/Videography Policy.** Sunday worship is livestreamed via local cable access. In addition, we occasionally take video or photography during worship and elsewhere on the church property. By your presence, you grant FCCN unrestricted rights to use and publish, transmit, or telecast images that may be taken of you for use in communication related to the church. Please contact the church office (508-653-0971 or [admin@fccnatick.org](mailto:admin@fccnatick.org)) with questions or concerns.

**Name Tags.** Please consider wearing a **name tag** – and a pronoun pin! Nametags are on the board in the elevator lobby (ground floor) and upper vestibule of the Sanctuary. If you don't yet have a nametag or are missing yours, make a note on the sheet and one will be on the lobby board next week. We want our church to be a place where everyone knows your name!

**The LINK e-Newsletter.** The LINK is emailed to subscribers every Tuesday and Friday. Please subscribe to the LINK, to stay in the loop. The Community LINK goes out Tuesdays (with happenings in Natick beyond the church). The Worship LINK goes out Fridays (and is more focused on the goings on in the congregation and that Sunday's service). It's free to subscribe: please go to [ucc.fccnatick.org/subscribe](http://ucc.fccnatick.org/subscribe).

**Hybrid Worship.** Many folks worship from home, at least from time to time. Join us live online ([ucc.fccnatick.org/livestream](http://ucc.fccnatick.org/livestream)). Natick residents can join us through local access cable (Comcast Xfinity 22, Verizon Fios 29, RCN 03). You can also find worship recordings on our website: ([ucc.fccnatick.org/worship-video](http://ucc.fccnatick.org/worship-video)).

**Calendar, News, and Program information at [FCCnatick.org](http://FCCnatick.org).**

# Welcome To Worship at FCC Natick!

**Open and Affirming.** FCCN is an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation, affirming the dignity and worth of every person. We welcome everyone into full participation, including people of every ability, race, culture, gender, economic circumstance, gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation.

**Denominational Affiliation:** FCCN is a member of the **United Church of Christ**, a liberal Protestant denomination within the Christian tradition. It offers for reflection a traditional Statement of Faith, yet values the individual's right and ability to prayerfully and thoughtfully determine what to believe regarding the Bible, God, creation, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, etc. The UCC values outreach and justice work. It seeks to be inclusive. Authority is held by members of the local congregation, not the church's pastor or national staff.

**Children and youth.** Children and youth are always welcome in our worship services. The *Playground* down front has a great view and quiet activities. Midway through worship, children ages 3 through grade six are invited to join in for Sunday School: preschoolers through kids in grade 3 explore sacred story through the *Godly Play* curriculum, and youth in grades 4 through 6 participate in our *Connect* program. If they wish, parents may accompany their child to the classroom, then return to the Sanctuary. Parents are encouraged to attend coffee hour after worship, then pick up their child from their classroom at 11:45 am. (Staffed *nursery care* is also available near the sanctuary throughout the service: ask an usher for directions or information.

## First Congregational Church of Natick (FCCN) Staff

### Pastor

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry  
revcindyfccn@gmail.com  
508-653-0971

### Director of Spiritual Vitality and Congregational Care

Saralyn Keller  
saralyn@fccnatick.org  
508-740-3134

### Church Office

Colleen King, Office Administrator  
admin@fccnatick.org  
508-653-0971

### Interim Music Director

Elaine Smith-Purcell  
music@fccnatick.org

### Sunday Nursery Staff

Grace Seiche

### Outreach Minister

Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

### Financial Assistant

Cynthia Hamwey

**FCCnatick.org**