

HILLS CHURCH



CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 29, 2021

Due to COVID precautions, we are asking everyone in the congregation to remain masked and to refrain from singing.

PRELUDE: Allegro moderato (from *Sonata in G minor*) J. S. Bach
Sara Johnson, flute; John Finney, piano

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

All who are able, please rise for the Call to Worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God, we wish to live according to your ways.
We want to live in your holy tent!

All: O God of mercy, help us to speak the truth, to do what
is right, and to be good neighbors.

One: O God, invite us into the fullness of life!

All: And then may we walk with you,
and dwell with you forever.

Please be seated.

HYMN: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal) #12

St. Denio

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we seem to call you again and again, making promises, and then disappointing you. We tend to build our own private worlds but forget to consult you first, you, who should be the architect of our lives. Forgive us when we think we don't need you, or we don't need church. Don't give up on us when we turn away from you. Instead, rivet our attention on love. Wake us up so we hear your call to serve others -- humbly, creatively, and with a generous heart -- through Jesus Christ and your Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR
Julia Lockberg Marques

The Address

Promises of Faith

Vow of Congregational Support

Minister: Let us pledge our love and support for Julia Marques, and for her parents, Allie and Alex Marques, on our collective journey of faith.

All: **Julia:**
We promise you our love,
we promise you our support,
we promise you our care.

The Blessing of the Water

The Act of Baptism

The Reception

Deacon: Julia, on behalf of the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church, we hereby accept you into our church, which is called the Body of Christ. Ours is a community of free inquiry and searching. We promise to share with you our experience of faith and ask that you share yourself with us. In this way we shall learn from one another, grow stronger, and more often be faithful to God as servants to all people. We offer these gifts to you as visible signs of our spiritual covenant. The blankets are given with loving care from the church. The flowers are a symbol of the joy we share in the celebration of baptism. The candles, to be lit on the anniversary of your baptism, is a symbol of the light of God. May the light of God shine always upon you and within you.

Prayer for the Baptized

Minister: Gracious God, may your Spirit enliven Julia, as she grows in wisdom and in years. And may your Spirit call forth a generosity of grace to nurture her from all who have made promises this day. In newness of life, we trust our lives to you. Amen.

All who are able, please rise for the Passing of the Peace.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please be seated.

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

GOSPEL READING: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

HOMILY: "What Other Great Nation?" Rev. Bob Feeny

SOLO: The Call (from *Five Mystical Songs*) R. Vaughan Williams
Laurie Stewart Otten, soprano

PRAYER CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

HYMN: Our God, Our Help in Ages Past
Hymns of Truth & Light (blue hymnal), #80

St. Anne

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

Please remain seated during the Postlude.

POSTLUDE: Fugue in E-flat ("St. Anne")
John Finney, organ

J. S. Bach



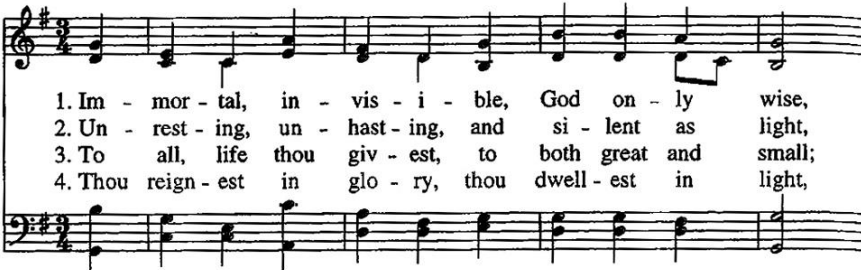
Preacher: Rev. Bob Feeny
Liturgist: Rev. Judy Swahnberg
Soloists: Laurie Stewart Otten, Garrett Murphy
Lay Readers: Steven Patrick, Elaine Vildzius

WORSHIP NOTES


Receiving the sacrament of baptism today is Julia Lockberg Marques, daughter of Allie Lockberg Marques and Alex Marques. Chancel flowers are given in honor of Julia's baptism by her parents, Allie and Alex Marques.

Today we welcome as our guest preacher, Rev. Bob Feeny, who is currently serving as a Pastoral Resident at the Village Church in Wellesley. Bob is a native of New Hampshire, and a graduate of Plymouth State College, and holds a Master of Divinity degree from the University of Chicago.

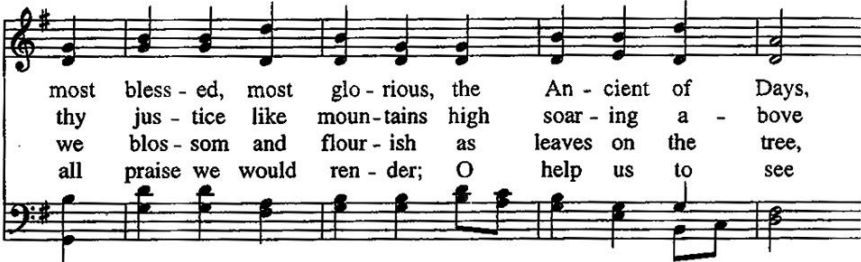
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



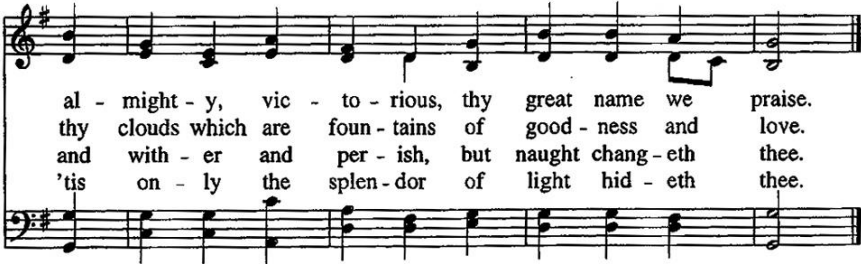
1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou dwell - est in light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 all praise we would ren - der; O help us to see



al - migh - ty, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

WORDS: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt.
 MUSIC: Welsh melody from John Roberts' *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839

ST. DENIO
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Minister and scholar Walter Smith also became Moderator of the Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland. The opening phrases are based on Timothy 1:17.

1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone,
 5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears mor - tals all a - way;
 6. Our God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!
 2. suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 4. short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the open - ing day.
 6. be thou our guard while trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. William Croft, 1708

ST. ANNE
 CM

Watts wrote this hymn, based on Psalm 90, while serving as pastor of Mark Lane Independent (Congregational) Church in London.

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Tenor Soloist	Christian Figueroa
Bass Soloist	Garrett Murphy
Sound Technician	Kenny Goshgarian
Sound Technician	Steven Hopkins

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.