



*The 2nd Annual Meeting
Saturday May 8, 2021
Worship Notes Packet*

This Packet Contains:

- Introduction to our Worship Team
- 5 Segment Outline with links to authors/readings
- Lyrics for the Original Song Created for this Annual Meeting- ***Stir My Soul***
- Music Licensing List with Composers for Reference

We wish to acknowledge and extend our sincere gratitude to our worship team leaders Rev. Sara D. Smith Esq., and Minister of Music, Mr. Thomas Cuffari. Their leadership, their creativity, their distinctive styles and effective collaboration have presented us with a unique worship in five segments full of faith and heart!

This dynamic pair of leaders are two of the staff team of [The United Church of Bridgeport](#), CT.

Rev. Sara D. Smith, Esq., has served in ministry for over 28 years. She is remarkable for her enthusiasm, energy, leadership abilities and considerable vision.



Mr. Tom Cuffari brings talent, passion and considerable skills to his ministry of music at United Church. He is Assistant Director of Choral Programs at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT.



Segment 1: **Rebirth!**

Theme Song: **“Stir My Soul”** Virtual Conference Choir
Original Composition – Mr. Thomas Cuffari

Reading: **“God of Compassion”** Ms. Emily Carle
Author: [Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber](#)

Reflection: **Reverend Darrell Goodwin**
Executive Conference Minister, SNEUCC

Special Music: **“Stand Up” from Harriet** Annual Meeting
Professional Choir and Band

Segment 2: **Repair!**

Theme Song: **“Stir My Soul”** Virtual Conference Choir

Reading: **“A Liturgy of Longing”** Rev. Edwin Perez, Jr.
Author: [Rev. Sandra Maria Van Opstal](#)

Reflection: **Reverend Sara D. Smith, Esq.**
Annual Meeting Worship Team Leader

Special Music: **“When We All Get Together with the Lord”** Annual Meeting
Professional Choir and Band

Offering: Introducing – **The Center for Transformational Leadership**
Artist: Jay Remick
Video Producer: Drew Page

Segment 3: **Restore!**

Theme Song: **“Stir My Soul”** Virtual Conference Choir

Reading: **“Diaspora”** Rev. Cindy Stasko
Author: [Azura Mizan Tyabji](#)

Reflection: **Reverend Terry Yasuko Ogawa**
Area Conference Minister, Northwest Region

Special Music: **“Day by Day”** United Church Bridgeport,
Choir and Band



Responding in Love: **“Lift Every Voice”** Dr. Jimmy Greene,
Saxophone Quartet

Segment 4: Redeem!

Theme Song: **“Stir My Soul”** Virtual Conference Choir

Reading: **“How Do You Know When You Are Hearing From God?”** Amanda Simpson
Author: [Amena Brown](#)

Reflection: **Reverend Rebecca Spencer**
Senior Minister, Central Congregational Church, Providence RI

Special Music: **“Rise Up”** Annual Meeting Professional
Choir and Band

Reflection: **Reverend Ryan Gackenheimer**
Executive for Camps and Retreats, Silver Lake Conference Center

Installation: [Board of Directors, Officers of The Conference](#)

Installation Hymn: **“Called As Partners in Christ’s Service”** Annual Meeting
Vs 1. Professional Choir and Band

Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment, fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring, to fulfill God’s chosen end.

Segment 5. Rejoice!

Theme Song: **“Stir My Soul”** Virtual Conference Choir

Reading: **“A Benediction”** Sean Amato
Author: [Sarah Bessey](#)

Reflection: **Rev. Dr. Audrey Price**
Executive Minister for Strategic Operations, SNEUCC

Special Music: **“Love Wins”** Annual Meeting
Professional Choir and Band

Wrap Up: ***“Rise Up” reprise with Dr. Jimmy Greene***

Final Blessing: ***Reverend Sara D. Smith, Esq.***

With Gratitude

We’re grateful for the many contributions to our worship service segments. To our readers, reflectors, musicians, and leaders! Below is additional information that will assist you in learning more about today’s worship and resources. All hyperlinks above in the worship program (blue/underline) link to the authors of today’s readings or their blogsites.

ANNUAL MEETING THEME ANTHEM – in all 5 WORSHIP SEGMENTS

“Stir My Soul”

Music and Lyrics by Tom Cuffari

Written expressly for the 2021 SNEUCC Annual Meeting

Performed by the 2021 Virtual Conference Volunteer Choir

Chorus

Stir my soul

As I enter a reality

Of this world that’s new to me.

Verse 1

As we journey on, the course is so uncertain;

Every day feels like a test of faith.

But we carry on with hope in one another

That we will be together hand in hand.

Chorus

Stir my soul

As I enter a reality

Of this world that’s new to me.

Verse 2

We have come so far, alone in isolation.

The world has held its breath for far too long.

And when this mess is over I’ll be with you;

Apart for now, but together here in song.



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Bridge

We're a people not forsaken.
We have a promised destination.
When time down, we did not fall.
You and I will find a way to soar.

Chorus

**Stir my soul
As I enter a reality
Of this world that's new to me**

Music Credits and Attributions

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