



Your healing light and life to renew our spirits. Forgive us for past wrongs, and awaken in us the Easter promise of new life. Allow us to rise again with Your Son, so that we might live as new women and men to Your glory. With humility and hope, we offer this prayer to You, as well as the silent confessions of our hearts. *Silence*

**Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God's love for us is greater than the sin we commit against God. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. This is the Good News we proclaim in this place: when we confess our sins before God and one another, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**People: Alleluia! Amen!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

ANTHEM

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Howard Goodall

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children three years old through 4<sup>th</sup> grade recess to Room 7*

\*HYMN #104

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

St. Peter

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 10:11-18

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Good Shepherd"

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

SERMON RESPONSE

With a Shepherd's Care

James Chepponis

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As a congregation, we pray together – through word, silence, and  
The Lord's Prayer (sins)

PRAYER RESPONSE

Threefold Amen

Gerre Hancock

CALL TO OFFERING

*Please pass the burgundy welcome books*

OFFERTORY

The Lamb

Nancy Wertsch

\*DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS (unison) Lasst uns erfreuen

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN #429

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Bradbury

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in D-flat Major

David Johnson

\*Congregation please stand.

The flowers in the Meeting House are given in loving memory of  
Thomas Howard Gillespie Jr from his beloved family.

Thank you to the Dunlap family for hosting our fellowship time this morning. Please join us for coffee in Smith Hall immediately following the service.

ARE YOU VISITING OUR CHURCH TODAY?

Welcome, and thank you for worshipping with us! If you have questions about our church or wish to join us for our next new member class, please contact Courtney Flynn at (203) 594-1850 or [welcoming@godsacre.org](mailto:welcoming@godsacre.org).

PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING

The prayer shawls displayed today were made with love and prayers by our Prayer Shawl Ministry. The shawls are given to those experiencing significant life challenges. During our prayers today, we ask for God's blessing on the shawls, and pray for those who receive them. New members are always welcome. No experience is needed! For more information, contact Twee Haffner at [tweehaffner@gmail.com](mailto:tweehaffner@gmail.com) or (203) 966-0606.

## NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

### APRIL PLATE OFFERING

The April plate offering will go towards Pacific House and help their mission to prevent and end homelessness.

### BIBLE STUDY: THE PARABLES - GREATEST HITS

Join us for the Greatest Parable Hits Series, now underway. The Parables are Jesus' most often used teaching tool, simple but clever and powerful stories to illustrate a greater truth or spiritual and moral lesson. Mondays in the Library, 7:00-8:00am, or Tuesdays (Women's) in the Parlor, 9:30-10:30am. New members are always welcome! Contact Marianna Kilbride at [marianna@godsacre.org](mailto:marianna@godsacre.org) to learn more or for Zoom links.

### CHILDREN AND FAMILY BINGO NIGHT – APRIL 28

Children and families of all ages are encouraged to sign up and join us for a night of family fellowship and bingo fun. On Sunday, April 28, we will gather from 5:00-6:30pm in Smith Hall for a friendly Bingo competition. Pizza will be served, and amazing prizes will be available for all to win. This is a beloved annual church event, and we hope to have you there! Contact Sarah Haddad at [churchschool@godsacre.org](mailto:churchschool@godsacre.org).

### DEDICATE A FLOWER ARRANGEMENT FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Dedicate a floral arrangement to remember someone special who has passed away or who is celebrating a special birthday, anniversary, or graduation. Please contact Tracy Goldman at [office@godsacre.org](mailto:office@godsacre.org) to choose a date and discuss color preference. A suggested donation of \$100 is greatly appreciated.

### MSYG CAR WASH – SAVE THE DATE: MAY 11

Save the Date: Saturday, May 11, for our annual MSYG Car Wash from 10:00am-2:00pm. Stop by God's Acre to get your car washed by our Middle School Youth Group and help them raise money for their mission trip to Mountainside this June. \$20 per car includes a wash and parking for the May Fair!

### NEW PODCAST COMING SOON – NEXT STATION TO HEAVEN

Next Station to Heaven is a new podcast of The Congregational Church of New Canaan that seeks to connect scripture with daily living and working. Through biblical reflection, practice, and prayer, we travel toward a destination where God’s will can be done on earth and in our lives, as it is in Heaven.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

We are excited to return with another fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School this summer. VBS 2024: Carrying the Torch will explore bible stories about light and spreading God’s abundant love through a summer Olympics theme. Join us for a week of faith formation, fellowship, art, games, and fun! VBS will run the week of August 19-22 from 9:00am-12:00pm. We will invite children aged 4 through 4th grade to participate as campers and children in 5-8th grade as junior counselors. High Schoolers are encouraged to contact us for more information about senior counselor positions. Sign-up information will be shared in the coming weeks! Contact Sarah Haddad at [churchschool@godsacre.org](mailto:churchschool@godsacre.org).

### WELCOME THE REVEREND ANDREW B. WARNER – APRIL 28

On Sunday, April 28, we will welcome our fifth Circle of Friends guest preacher, the Reverend Andrew B. Warner. The Reverend Andrew B. Warner, CFRE, serves as a Generosity Outreach Officer of the National Ministries of the United Church of Christ. In that role he trains, coaches, and mentors conference and congregational leaders to strengthen the culture of generosity across the UCC. Andrew also serves as Director of Development for the Wisconsin Conference. He leads the fundraising efforts of the conference, supports the planned giving and effective philanthropy of congregations, and started a foundation. Previously, Andrew served for twenty-two years as pastor of Plymouth Church UCC of Milwaukee. He loves to cook and entertain, a practice he calls his “gastro-evangelism.” **Join Andrew after the 10:00am worship service in the Chapel at 11:15am for a Friends’ Ministry Chat. All are welcome!**

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SPRING LUNCHEON – MAY 3

Join us for our Annual Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon on Friday, May 3. Check your email for more details or reach out to Lesley Cousley, [lcousley@gmail.com](mailto:lcousley@gmail.com) for the RSVP link. The luncheon will be held at The Country Club of New Canaan from 11:30am-1:00pm, and the cost is \$40.

YOUTH MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

4/21 MSYG (Grades 7-8), No MSYG, Spring Break

4/21 YG (Grades 9-12), No YG, Spring Break

4/23 Minnows (Grades K-2), 3:30-4:30pm

4/23 JYG/Guppies (Grades 3-6), 4:30-5:30pm

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

*Senior Minister*

Kelly Antonson

*Senior Youth Director*

Lindsey Daly

*Director of Children's Ministries*

Dr. Michael Burnette

*Interim Director of Music Ministries*

Anneliese Klenetsky, soprano

*Soloist*

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Dionna Carlson

We are a welcoming, inclusive, and compassionate church community where difference and diversity are valued. We gather to promote the love and knowledge of the God revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Redeemer and Friend, and welcome all to participate in the life of our church regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, ability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

We invite you to make your 2024 pledge today.

