

WORSHIP SERVICE
APRIL 28, 2024, 10:00AM
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE

What Wondrous Love Is This?

Linda Wells

*HYMN #404

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Beecher

Verses 1, 3, and 4

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 98)

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

People: break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**People: With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

Leader: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

**People: Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy.**

Leader: Christ the Lord is Risen!

All: He has risen! He has risen indeed!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord God, with joyous song we come before you aware of both our sinful nature and Your resurrection grace. We confess the darkness that has been entombed within us far too long: anger and disappointment, bitterness and frustration, envy and jealousy. In so many ways we have denied You, betrayed You,

and deserted You in word and in deed. This morning, Lord, we ask you to roll away the stones from our hearts, and allow 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 Call

Alexander Brent Smith

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Gray Jose Uzal & Samuel William Uzal
children of Noah and Emily Uzal

VOWS OF THE PARENTS

VOW OF THE CONGREGATION

Deacon: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the ones about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care for Gray & Samuel.

UNISON WELCOME

Gray and Samuel: We the community of The Congregational Church welcome you into our family, which is called the body of Christ. We rejoice in your presence among us, and the presence of your family. As you grow, we will tell you about this moment that we have shared with you, and we will tell you about God's love that has been poured out on you. As you grow, we pray that you will tell us about God's love as it touches you; so together we may reach toward the Kingdom of God. Welcome!

Children three years old through 7th grade recess to Church School

*HYMN #445

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

Verses 1, 2, and 4

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Mystery of an Anatomy"
The Rev. Andrew B. Warner

SERMON RESPONSE

In Christ There Is No East or West

Charles Rus

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

Know That God Loves You

Carson Cooman

CALL TO OFFERING

Please pass the burgundy welcome books

OFFERTORY

The Apple Tree

K. Lee Scott

*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 (*see page 5*)

Sing a New Church

Nettleton

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary in D Major

John Stanley

*Congregation please stand.

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

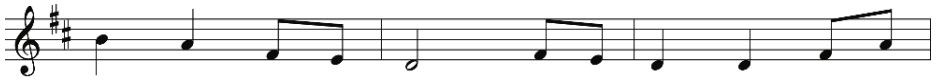
The flowers in the Meeting House are given in loving memory of Arthur Richard Mardoian from his beloved family.

We thank God for beautiful flowers and are grateful to God's servants for sharing their gifts with us. The flowers displayed in the Chapel and Meeting House this past month have been arranged by Tracy Goldman, Juliet Howe, Penny Mardoian, and Sindi Rusiecki.

Sing a New Church



1. Sum - moned by the God who made us Rich in
2. Ra - diant ris - en from the wa - ter, Robed in
3. Trust the good - ness of cre - a - tion; Trust the
4. Bring the hopes of ev - 'ry na - tion; Bring the
5. Draw to - geth - er at one ta - ble All the



our di - ver - si - ty, Gath - ered in the name of
ho - li - ness and light, Male and fe - male in God's
Spir - it strong with - in. Dare to dream the vi - sion
art of ev - 'ry race. Weave a song of peace and
hu - man fam - i - ly; Shape a cir - cle ev - er



Je - sus, Rich - er still in u - ni - ty;
im - age, Male and fe - male, God's de - light:
prom - ised, Sprung from seed of what has been.
jus - tice; Let it sound through time and space.
wid - er And a peo - ple ev - er free.



Let us bring the gifts that dif - fer And, in



splen - did, var - ied ways, Sing a new Church in - to



be - ing, One in faith and love and praise.

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.

WELCOME THE REVEREND ANDREW B. WARNER

This morning 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!**

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.

MAASAI PROJECT KICK OFF – MAY 5

Next Sunday we kick-off our spring Maasai project. Learn about this year’s project and how you can help. For more information contact Lindsay Tucker at lindsaytucker08@gmail.com.

MSYG CAR WASH – MAY 11

Please join us on 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!

MSYG MOUNTAINSIDE MISSION TRIP - DEADLINE MAY 5

MSYG Trip to Mountainside takes place June 7-9 for our 7th and 8th grade students. This is a transformative weekend in which we experience the love of God by serving our neighbors at Mountainside Treatment Center. Ask any fish who has ever attended, and they will tell you of the transformative power of this mission weekend. If you have questions, please contact Kelly Antonson at leather@godsacre.org.

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.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP – MAY 5, 6:00-6:45PM

We will offer a Sunday evening worship service with communion next Sunday, May 5 in the Chapel from 6:00-6:45pm. We invite you to join us and share this new offering with anyone you think might be interested. This will be our last Sunday evening service this program year.

YOUTH MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

4/28 MSYG (Grades 7-8), *Color Wars, 4:00-5:30pm

*Pick-up and drop-off at Waveny Park

4/28 YG (Grades 9-12), *Celebration at Waveny, 6:00-7:30pm

*Pick-up and drop-off at Waveny Park (please note time change)

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

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Andrew B. Warner, CFRE

Director of Development, UCC

Wisconsin Conference

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

Senior Minister

Marianna Kilbride

Director of Spiritual Formation

Dr. Michael Burnette

Interim Director of Music Ministries

Bryan Griffin, tenor

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.

