

WORSHIP SERVICE

NOVEMBER 19, 2023, 10:00AM

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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PRELUDE

Hymn Sing

\*HYMN #23

We Gather Together

Kremser

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 30)

Leader: We have cried to You God of life and You have  
healed us!

**People: You have restored us to new life!**

Leader: Sing praises to God all you saints. Give thanks to  
God's holy name!

**People: God's favor is for a lifetime and beyond.**

Leader: Hear us, O God, and be gracious! You have turned  
our mourning into dancing.

**All: We will give thanks to You forever and ever!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, we come before You a people too nearly  
conformed to this world and its values. We've been too busy  
for the care of our bodies or the development of our minds  
and spirits. We neglect the nurture of our own best selves. We  
spend our money on that which is not bread. Yet we ignore  
our own hunger and thirst for You and Your righteousness.  
Join us at our table and transform us by Your Spirit. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Neither this world nor your life is so broken that God cannot restore it to wholeness.

**People: Trust and believe that, after separation, reconciliation is possible. God does show us the way home.**

Leader: Receive the good news, in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

ANTHEM

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Healey Willan

THANKSGIVING SERVICE PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

*All Children through Grade 7 recess to Church School for  
Thanksgiving Service Project*

\*HYMN #526

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

St. George's Windsor

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25:14-30; John 14:12

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“We’ve Got Talent!”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

SERMON RESPONSE

Give Thanks

Henry Smith

Anne Maguire, mezzo soprano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

Amen

Paul Spicer

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS AND CALL TO OFFERING

*Please pass the burgundy welcome books*

OFFERTORY

Let All Things Now Living

Katherine K. Davis

\*DOXOLOGY (unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN #454

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Beach Spring

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Cantata 79*, Now Thank We All Our God

Johann Sebastian Bach

\*Congregation please stand.

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 needed! For more information contact Twee Haffner at [tweehaffner@gmail.com](mailto:tweehaffner@gmail.com) or (203) 966-0606.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE PROJECT - TODAY

This morning from 11:00am-12:30pm, our church will serve in one of its most beloved traditions, the Thanksgiving Service Project. Join us in Smith Hall after worship!

## NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

### 2024 AMO MISSION TRIP

Join us March 9-15 on our Adult Mission Trip to Puerto Rico. All are welcome. For more information and to sign up, contact Tracy Goldman at [office@godsacre.org](mailto:office@godsacre.org) or Marianna Kilbride at [marianna@godsacre.org](mailto:marianna@godsacre.org).

### 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The 2024 Stewardship Campaign is underway! We are focused on Jesus' teaching that through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will do "even greater works than these" [John 14:12]. We ask that you reflect on what "greater work" the Lord might be calling us to in this next season of our life together as a church family and that you support our church by pledging to the very best of your ability. You may pledge using the pledge cards found in your pew or by utilizing the QR code on the back of your bulletin.

### ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Monday, November 27 at 7:00am, and Tuesday, November 28 at 9:30am, the Monday Morning and Women's Bible Studies will begin a 3-week Advent study featuring John the Baptist. All are welcome. For an optional Zoom link or more information, contact Marianna Kilbride at [marianna@godsacre.org](mailto:marianna@godsacre.org).

### ADVENT MUSICAL MOMENTS AND MUSIC MINISTRIES

Join us for Advent Musical Moments on Wednesdays at 12:30pm for 30 minutes of scriptures, prayer, and music.

December 6 – Hans Tashjian, bass

December 13 – Anne Maguire, mezzo soprano

December 20 – Greer Lyle, soprano

### *SAVE THE DATES:*

Sunday, December 3 at 5:00pm – A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 10 at the 10:00am service –

Recognition Sunday for Jody Blaine Davis

Sunday, December 17 at 9:45am Hymn Sing – select Christmas carols and at the 10:00am service – Daniel Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata* presented by Chancel Choir, brass, tympani, and organ.

### ADVENT OUTREACH PROJECTS

Please stop by our Missions Table at Fellowship Hour to learn how to participate in our beloved traditions of Christmas giving!

DOVES: A suggested donation of \$50.00 to Person-to-Person will go towards grocery gift cards to buy a day's worth of food for Christmas for those in need. Contact Debbie Simpson at [debcsimpson24@gmail.com](mailto:debcsimpson24@gmail.com).

ANGELS: Take an Angel from the tree and purchase a gift for a homeless child. You can either buy it online and have it shipped directly to Inspirica or shop in-store and return it to Smith Hall. Contact Beth Picard at [bpicard44@gmail.com](mailto:bpicard44@gmail.com).

BELLS: Each year, we ring the Salvation Army Bells at Walter Stewart's Market to raise funds for our local neighbors in need. Take a bell from the tree and sign up for an hour slot. Bell ringing is an excellent service opportunity for all! Contact Tracy Goldman at [office@godsacre.org](mailto:office@godsacre.org).

### CARD WRITING MINISTRY

Interested in helping to bring a smile to fellow church members? Please consider joining the Card Ministry Team. We send handwritten notes to do-gooders, unsung heroes, those needing support, those going through a life change, etc. Please join us and write cards that make a difference in someone's life. We will supply you with beautiful church note cards, the recipient's name, address, and reason for the card. Contact Stephanie Radman at [stephanieradman@aol.com](mailto:stephanieradman@aol.com) to learn more.

### CHURCH SCHOOL – COMBINED CLASS NEXT WEEK

Next Sunday, November 26, we will offer a Combined Church School class for children in Pre-K through grade 4. The nursery will also be available for children 3 and under.

### JOIN OUR BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MINISTRY TEAM

Interested in participating in the care & planning for our historical church property? Join our Building & Grounds Ministry Team today! The team meets monthly in-person and via zoom. For more information, contact Caroline Smittle at [caroline@godsacre.org](mailto:caroline@godsacre.org) 203-966-2651 x106.

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS DINNER – DECEMBER 13

The Men's Fellowship Christmas Dinner will be held at the Waveny House on Wednesday, December 13, at 6:00pm. There will be a fun raffle for a range of prizes, and we look forward to the wonderful voices of Pivot House and our very own Congregational Church Men's Carolers! The cost is \$70.00. Please contact Charles Crookenden at [crooko@gmail.com](mailto:crooko@gmail.com) for the RSVP link.

### NOVEMBER PLATE OFFERING

This month's plate offering goes towards the Thanksgiving Service Project. Our partners include Grace Baptist Church, Macedonia Church, Carver Foundation, Person to Person, Fairfield Aids Project, Open Doors, Pacific House, Pivot Ministries, and Liberation Programs. Through these partnerships, we feed about 1,000 individuals Thanksgiving meals.

### SAVE THE DATE: DECEMBER 10

We Say Goodbye to Jody! Jody Blaine Davis will retire as Director of Music Ministries, effective December 20. The church will recognize her years of service at the 10:00am worship service on Sunday, December 10, and a reception will follow in Fellowship Hour.

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS GATHERING – DECEMBER 7

Ladies, please join us on Thursday, December 7 at 7:00pm for a lovely evening of fellowship, hors d'oeuvres by Simply Delicious, and an ornament swap at the Carriage Barn Arts Center. The cost is \$30. RSVP by November 30. Contact Laurel Carr at [laurel@godsacre.org](mailto:laurel@godsacre.org) to register.

### YOUTH MINISTRIES

11/19 MSYG (Grades 7-8), \*Thanksgiving Service Project, 9:30-11:15am **\*This is a covenant event.**

11/19 YG (Grades 9-12), \*Thanksgiving Service Project, (See Kelly's email for times) **\*This is a covenant event.**

No JYG, Guppies or Minnows this week – Happy Thanksgiving!

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

*Senior Minister*

Marianna Kilbride

*Director of Spiritual Formation*

Courtney Flynn

*Welcoming Team Chair*

Polly O'Brien Morrow

*Stewardship Witness*

Dr. Michael Burnette

*Interim Director of Music Ministries*

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Steve Case

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 pledge today.

