

WORSHIP SERVICE  
JANUARY 21, 2024, 10:00AM  
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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PRELUDE  
Hymn Sing

\*HYMN #39

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Azmon

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a  
great light;

**People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness  
on them light has shined.**

Leader: For a child has been born for us, a Son given to us;

**People: Authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is  
named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His  
authority shall grow continually,**

Leader: And there shall be endless peace for the throne of  
David and His kingdom.

**All: He will establish and uphold it with justice and  
with righteousness from this time onward and  
forevermore.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**It may seem naive, in a world of grief, to choose to live in joy;  
it may seem foolish, in a world where solemnity is power, to  
sing and dance to a different tune; it may seem cruel, in a  
world of suffering and injustice, to speak of light and**

celebration; but You have come, Jesus, to bring joy into our grief, light into our darkness, singing into our mourning; and it is an act of healing and proclamation to believe and embrace the joy You offer. Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Hallelujah!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (based on Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

Leader: The prophets of old have declared, "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God.

**People: For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robes of righteousness."**

Leader: Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

ANTHEM

Will You Come and Follow Me

Tom Trenney

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*All Children through Grade 7 recess to Church School*

\*HYMN #407

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jonah 1:1-3, 3:10-4:11

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"The Rest of the Story"

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

SERMON RESPONSE

Amazing Grace

Chris Tomlin and Louis Giglio

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

Day by Day

Harold Friedell

STEWARDSHIP WITNESS AND CALL TO OFFERING

*Please pass the burgundy welcome books*

OFFERTORY

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Maurice Bevan

\*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 #477

God of Grace and God of Glory

Cwm Rhondda

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

God of Grace

Paul Manz

\*Congregation please stand.

Thank you to the Kennedy, Sharp, and Stedman families 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  
Josephine Bunch Gillespie from her beloved family.

### 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.

### NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

#### 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.

### ADULT CONFIRMATION – BEGINS FEBRUARY 4, 8:45-9:45AM

Adults are invited to spend twelve Sundays reading and discussing scripture, faith themes, and faith questions with church friends, just like our confirmands. For more information or to participate contact Chapin at [pastor@godsacre.org](mailto:pastor@godsacre.org).

### BECOME A MISSION SPONSOR TODAY

We seek to raise \$75,000 to make our mission to Puerto Rico possible! 108 kids will embark on our February Mission Trip to serve and love thy neighbor. We will be partnering with *First Baptist Church of Río Piedras* to serve those brothers and sisters in need. This mission is only possible with the support of our congregation and YG Friends. Will you please consider being a mission sponsor? Donations can be made online at [www.godsacre.org/give](http://www.godsacre.org/give)

### CHURCH ENVELOPE PICK UP

The Church Envelopes have arrived. If you requested 2024 church envelopes, they can be found on the windowsill in Smith Hall. If you would like to be added to our request list, please contact Caroline Smittle at [caroline@godsacre.org](mailto:caroline@godsacre.org)

### CLEMENTINE'S PLAYDATES REGISTRATION

Registration for the winter/spring semester is open for all church members. The semester will run from February 7 through May 22. Sessions will be offered on Wednesdays from 9:15-10:15am and 10:30-11:30am. Registration will open to all other members of the community on Monday, January 22. Please email [churchschool@godsacre.org](mailto:churchschool@godsacre.org) with questions.

### JANUARY PLATE OFFERING

The January plate offering will go directly to the fundraising effort for the YG Mission Trip to Puerto Rico.

### NEW SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

We will be offering a contemporary worship service with communion on the first Sunday of the month from February through June. We have church members who are not able to make Sunday morning worship and have requested an alternative time to gather. We also have church members who have requested a service with more contemporary music. On February 4, March 3, April 7, May 5 and June 2, Chapin, our Junior Deacons, Greer Lyle, and Nick Dupey will be leading worship from 6:00-6:45pm in the Chapel. We invite you to join us and share this new offering with anyone you think might be interested.

### RESUMING OF OPEN DOORS LUNCH SERVICE

Beginning January 23, our Open Doors lunch service will resume. Up to four team members will help make and serve lunch on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month to the unhoused and underserved community in Norwalk. For more information and to sign up, stop by the Missions Table during Fellowship Hour or contact Susie Swindell at [susies1@optonline.net](mailto:susies1@optonline.net).

### SENIOR YOUTH DIRECTOR SEARCH

We are beginning the formal search for our next Senior Youth Director as Kelly Antonson prepares for ordination. We are seeking a compassionate, organized, and energetic leader with 4+ years' experience working with children to oversee our large and vibrant youth programs. If you, a family member, or friend are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please email [hr@godsacre.org](mailto:hr@godsacre.org).

### THE EPISTLES - SIX-WEEK BIBLE STUDY BEGINS THIS WEEK

Beginning January 22 and 23, join us in reading the Epistles. In the New Testament, there are eleven short epistles or letters that often don't get our attention. In this study, we'll explore these letters, sermons, or other kinds of teaching materials to see what they have to show us about their authors, their audiences, and how we can learn from them today. Mondays 7:00-8:00am in the Library and Tuesdays (Women's) 9:30-10:30am in the Parlor. Contact Marianna Kilbride at [marianna@godsacre.org](mailto:marianna@godsacre.org) for more information.

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FLOWER WORKSHOP

Join us in Smith Hall on Thursday, February 8, from 9:30-11:00am. Juliet Howe, head of the Flower Ministry Team, will guide us in creating a beautiful arrangement. Our morning will be filled with flowers, fellowship, and fun. Sign up and leave with your own floral creation. Check your email to RSVP or contact Lesley Cousley at [lcousley@gmail.com](mailto:lcousley@gmail.com).

### YOUTH MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

1/21 YG (Grades 9-12), Faces of Homelessness, 7:00-8:30pm

1/23 JYG (Grades 5-6), \*4:30-5:30pm

**\*JYG will be combining with the Guppies for the remainder of the program year**

1/23 Minnows (Grades K-2), \*3:30-4:30pm

1/23 Guppies (Grades 3-4), \*4:30-5:30pm

**\*Minnows and Guppies have switched time slots for the remainder of the program year**

1/24 Quest (Grades 9-12), 7:00-8:30pm

## MUSIC SURVEY

In an effort to learn more about our congregation's musical inspirations, engagement, and abilities and to support the church's efforts to identify a new Director of Music Ministries, we have created a brief survey, and we would greatly appreciate your input!

To take the survey online, simply visit this web address on any computer or mobile device:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCMusicSurvey>

You can also access the survey by scanning this QR code:



The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete, and it is intended for anyone in high school or older. We encourage each family member of your household to take the survey individually, as we want to hear each person's unique perspective. If you have questions about the survey, including how to receive or submit a paper-based version, please feel free to contact David Haddad at (917) 270-6086 or [davidmhaddad3@gmail.com](mailto:davidmhaddad3@gmail.com).

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

*Senior Minister*

Marianna Kilbride

*Director of Spiritual Formation*

Barbara Clayton

*Stewardship Witness*

Dr. Michael Burnette

*Interim Director of Music Ministries*

Anne Maguire, mezzo-soprano

*Soloist*

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Sara Bakker

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.

