

WORSHIP SERVICE
MARCH 17, 2024, 10:00AM
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

PRELUDE
Hymn Sing

*HYMN #259
Awake, Awake to Love and Work Morning Song

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (*adapted from Psalm 51*)

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God,
according to Your steadfast love.

**People: You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach us wisdom in our secret heart.**

Leader: Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean;
wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.

**People: Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within us.**

Leader: Restore to us the joy of Your salvation,
and sustain in us a willing spirit.

**All: O Lord, open our lips,
and our mouths shall declare your praise.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**We gather to worship, O God, under the shadow of the cross,
sign of human shame and divine wisdom. Like Jesus, we would
follow faithfully in Your way. Like Jesus, we would live to You
and die to You. We are Your people. We belong to You. We offer
You our worship and our lives. We believe; help us in our
unbelief. We love You, yet not with perfect hearts. We long for
you, yet not with our whole selves. O Lord, our Christ, may we**

have Your mind and Your spirit. Give us new hearts that we may rise to serve You as new people, according to Your will and for the sake of Your glory, as we now offer our silent confessions...

Silence

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: In the days of the prophet Isaiah, God declared,

People: “I, I am the One who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.”

Leader: Be assured, dear friends, in Jesus Christ you are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

ANTHEM

Wondrous Love

Carson Cooman

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

All Children through Grade 7 recess to Church School

*HYMN #76

As Longs the Deer

O Waly Waly

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 12:1-8

[Matthew 26:13 & Mark 14:9]

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Fragrant Offering”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

SERMON RESPONSE

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

Hillsong Worship

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Margaret Tucker

CALL TO OFFERING

Please pass the burgundy welcome books

OFFERTORY

Drop, Drop, Slow Tears

Robert Graham

*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 #S20

Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in G minor

Johann Pachelbel

*Congregation please stand.

The flowers in the Meeting House are lovingly given in memory
of David Grogan, a beloved Husband, Father, and Grandfather.

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.

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 or (203) 966-0606.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT AND FELLOWSHIP, MARCH 31, 10:00AM

Please join us at 10:00am between the 9:00am and 11:00am Easter Sunday services for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on the church lawn. We will have different egg hunting sections for each age group, several golden eggs with mystery prizes inside, and a visit from the Easter Bunny! We invite you to sign up to bring a baked good or drink to our family fellowship that will also take place outside during the egg hunt. We look forward to a special Easter morning with all of you! Contact Lindsey Daly, lindsey@godsacre.org.

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL SIGNUP IS HERE!

This year, the children's musical is an interactive program about the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-25. We will learn memory verses, songs, and dances to correlate with each "fruit." Our program will be a part of the 10:00am worship service on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. Rehearsals will be held during Church School and Children's Choir, with only a select few after-church rehearsals. Signup flyers can be found in Smith Hall. Contact Greer Lyle, greer@godsacre.org

EASTER FLOWERS

The congregation is invited to make contributions given in celebration of the season and/or in memory of loved ones. Contributions and bulletin listings should be sent to Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org by Monday, March 25. You can donate online and designate Easter Flowers or use the envelope in this bulletin and drop it in the collection plate. The flowers will be on display on Easter Sunday.

EASTER ON GOD'S ACRE – SUNDAY, MARCH 31

6:30am Sunrise Service, Church Steps

*9:00am Traditional Worship Service, Meeting House

10:00am Easter Egg Hunt and Fellowship, Church Lawn

*11:00am Traditional Worship Service, Meeting House

*Church School Chapel Service and Nursery Care are available at the 9:00am and 11:00am services

Tuesdays, March 5, 19, and 26, (Women's) 9:30-10:30am, Parlor

FELLOWSHIP DINNER PARTIES – LAST CALL!

La Camaraderie: Petits dîners entre amies! Congregants are invited to join in a celebration of faith and French-inspired gastronomy on Saturday, March 23, at 6:00pm. Each dinner party will have 8-10 people in attendance, and guests will be assigned a dish to prepare and bring a beverage to share. Please contact Dawn Doak, dawn.norris@gmail.com to RSVP. Dinner assignments will be emailed on March 19.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY-RESURRECTION STORIES IN THE GOSPELS

Join us to reflect on the resurrection stories as evocatively told in the Gospels. Mondays, March 18 and 25, 7:00-8:00am, Library
Tuesdays, March 19 and 26, (Women's) 9:30-10:30am, Parlor
Contact Marianna Kilbride, marianna@godsacre.org.

LENTEN COLLECTION - LITTLE FREE PANTRY OF STAMFORD

The Little Free Pantry of Stamford offers free food and other necessities from the small outdoor and always open pantry located at St. John's Lutheran Church. As a Lenten practice during the month of March, we will partner with LFP supplying their most difficult to collect items. Please bring small laundry detergent jugs, bar soap, shampoo, hand soap, toothpaste, diapers, toilet cleaner, household spray cleaners and/or feminine care products to the bin in Smith Hall by March 31. Contact Tracy Goldman, office@godsacre.org.

LENTEN PODCAST: PRACTICING WHAT JESUS PREACHED

Each weekday in Lent, Chapin offers a daily podcast with reflections, questions, practices, and prayers, on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Take time to journey with Jesus this Lenten season, by striving to put what Jesus preached into practice. The podcast is available on all major podcast platforms. Chapin's book, *Practicing What Jesus Preached* is available at the church, Elm Street Books, Wipf & Stock Publishers www.wipfandstock.com, and other online vendors.

MARCH PLATE OFFERING

The March plate offering will be split between Inspirica (in Stamford), Pacific House (in Stamford), and Open Doors (in Norwalk). Your generous donation will directly benefit the homeless in our local communities.

MEALS ON WHEELS – VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Our long-standing partner, Meals on Wheels, is looking for drivers to deliver meals to New Canaan residents who are unable to provide a meal for themselves. Meals are picked up at Waveny Care Center at 10:30am and delivery usually takes about an hour and a half. Feel free to bring a friend or your kids along while serving your community. Sign up today using the following sign-up genius or contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054fa5a72ba2f94-january#/>

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MARCH MADNESS – MARCH 21

There will be a March Madness social get together at the home of Steve Case, 135 Comstock Hill Road, on Thursday, March 21 at 6:30pm. Pizza, salad, and BYOB with \$10 contribution suggested. Check your inbox for the invite or contact Steve Case at scase135@outlook.com.

PALM SUNDAY AT CHURCH SCHOOL

Coming up on March 24, we will hold a special Palm Sunday Chapel service for children through grade 7. Middle School will help to guide the younger children through the events of Holy Week in preparation for Easter Sunday.

SPRING 2024 NEW MEMBER CLASS – BEGINS TODAY

Introduction: Sunday, March 17, 11:15am
Faith Sharing: Wednesday, March 20, 7:00pm
Social (Dinner Parties): Saturday, March 23, 6:00pm
New Member Sunday: Sunday, March 24, 9:00am
Join us in the Parlor today after 10:00am worship.

YOUTH MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

3/17 MSYG (Grades 7-8), St. Patrick's Day Fun, 4:00-5:30pm
3/17 YG (Grades 9-12), Ultimate Ball, 7:00-8:30pm
3/19 Minnows (Grades K-2), 3:30-4:30pm
3/19 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

Dr. Michael Burnette

Interim Director of Music Ministries

Mina Ciolli, Youth Worship Team

Soloist

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Teri Reed

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.

