

*Alleluia!*  
*Christ is Risen*



WORSHIP SERVICE

MARCH 31, 2024, 9:00 AND 11:00AM

EASTER SUNDAY

---

PRELUDE

Music for Brass Quartet

\*HYMN #205

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Easter Hymn

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 98)

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

**People: break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Minister: 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.**

Minister: 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.**

Minister: 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. 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 Easter Song of Praise

Richard Shephard

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*(Children aged 3 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade recess to the Chapel)*

\*HYMN #214

Thine Is the Glory

Judas Maccabeus

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20:1-18

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Alleluia Everyday!”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

SERMON RESPONSE

Because He Lives (Amen)

Matt Maher

9:00am: Greer Lyle, soprano

11:00am: Margot Emson and Mina Ciolli, Junior Worship Team

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As a congregation we pray together, led by our deacon— through  
word, silence, and The Lord's Prayer (sins)

PRAYER RESPONSE

Choral Amen

John Rutter

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Exultation for Easter

Arnold Sherman

\*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 #210

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Diademata

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata (from *Symphony No. 5*)

Charles-Marie Widor

\* Congregation please stand.

Our church nursery offers childcare for infants through age two.  
If you are new to the church and need help finding the nursery,  
please see an usher.

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).

This year's Easter offering will go directly to Pacific House (Stamford), Inspirica (Stamford), and Open Doors (Norwalk). Your generous donation will directly benefit those in greatest need in our local communities through the provision of meals, emergency and transition housing, and comprehensive support services to men, women, and families while seeking to address the root causes of homelessness. Thank you!

We welcome guest musicians to our services this morning: Tony Kadleck, trumpet; Scott Harrell, trumpet; Brad Ward, trombone; Jeff Nelson, bass trombone; and Glenn Rhian, timpani. Scott Cranston is the contractor. Guest instrumentalists are funded through the Mary Bradley Clarke Fund. Established in 1973 and designated for instrumentalists and singers, the fund underwrites special music programs at CCNC. Sincere gratitude is extended to all our generous contributors!

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 Parry Grogan, Juliet Howe, Kris Johnson, Dana Marchiony, Alyssa Resnick, Maria Stadnick, and Re Telep.

## NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

### 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 to 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).

### 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 at [greer@godsacre.org](mailto:greer@godsacre.org)

### CHURCH SCHOOL

Today, all children aged 3 through 4th grade will begin church in the Meeting House and recess to the Chapel following the Children's Message.

### GET INVOLVED WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY TEAM

Through the lens of a foundation of faith, spirituality, and hope, a new ministry team at our church has formed to raise awareness around how these important pillars can positively impact our mental health and that of our loved ones. Our goal is to support each other and bring resources to our community. We seek members who feel called to help build a new ministry involving book groups, workshops, teen-focused programs, and more. Contact Kim Hall (917)690-3700 or Martha Palmer (919)593-6173 to learn more.

### 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; 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](mailto:marianna@godsacre.org).  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c054fa5a72ba2f94-january#/>

### NEW BIBLE STUDY: THE PARABLES - GREATEST HITS

Join us for the Greatest Parable Hits Series beginning April 15. 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. Zoom links are available. Contact Marianna Kilbride at [marianna@godsacre.org](mailto:marianna@godsacre.org).

### SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP – APRIL 7, 6:00-6:45PM

We will offer a Sunday evening worship service with communion on the first Sunday of each month through May. This month Chapin will preach, and we will gather 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.

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SPRING LUNCHEON – MAY 3

Please mark your calendars for the annual Women's Fellowship Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, May 3, at 11:30am. We will honor our Women of Wisdom. Invitations and additional details to come! Please note that our church database is a wonderful resource for identifying our honorees; however, not all birthdays are included in member profiles. If you or a friend are 80 and over and wish to be included in this year's celebration, please contact Tracy Goldman at [office@godsacre.org](mailto:office@godsacre.org) or (203)966-2651 x109 to confirm your interest.

### SAVE THE DATE: 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).

### YOUTH THIS WEEK – YOUTH WORSHIP

3/31 MSYG (Grades 7-8), 6:30am Easter Sunrise Service

3/31 YG (Grades 9-12), 6:30am Easter Sunrise Service

4/3 Youth Worship (Grades 3-12), 6:30-8:00pm

There will be no regular programming for Minnows, Guppies, and JYG this week because of Youth Worship on Wednesday, April 3. All grades 3-12 are welcome to attend as we enjoy an evening of fellowship and worship together. Contact Emma Garner at [emma@godsacre.org](mailto:emma@godsacre.org).



## EASTER FLOWERS

*The beautiful Easter flowers are given by members and friends as an expression of joy in the season and faith in the Resurrection.*

The Baker Family, in loving memory of Roy E. Dexter, Jr.

The Bottini Family, in loving memory of Kathleen and Ralph Bottini

Michael Burnette, in loving memory of my father, Ray Burnette

The Carr Family, in loving memory of Thomas Canazzi,

Dr. Keith Allen Dimond, Jacob Dimond, and Gary Wnek

Barb and Jim Clayton & Family, in loving memory of our parents,

Alice and Larry Kurth and Barb and Curt Clayton

The DeMuth Family, with gratitude

The Denlinger Family, in honor of Bridget Livingston

Wes and Jeanne Fredericks, in loving memory of our parents

The Galione Family, in loving memory of our parents, family, and friends

The Garofoli Family, in loving memory of Mary and Joe Garofoli and Al Shuskus

Joby Gray, in loving memory of Bowman Gray and

The Whitman Family

Parry Grogan, in loving memory of David Grogan, beloved husband

The Hall Family, in loving memory of Ralph Burnet, Linda and

Tom Hall, and Gail Paulson Hanson

The Hamilton Family, in honor of our loving grandparents

The Hartofilis Family, in loving memory of Ed McElduff

Ainsley and Brendan Hayes, in loving memory of our

grandparents: Clift, Rose, Forte, and Hayes

Peter Hayward, in loving memory of Carol Chambliss

The Hetherington Family, in loving memory of John W.

Hetherington

Sherri and Halvor Kielland, in loving memory of Aggie, Knut and

Brit Kielland and Clif and Penny Collings

Jeanette and Alexandra Lewis, in loving memory of Hugh

Barrington Lewis

Rowena Lewis, in loving memory of Milford and Oxcelina

Chalwell

Joan Lister, in loving memory of Dorothy and James Gibson and  
Avis and George Lister

The Marchiony Family, in loving memory of Adrian DeGroot

Leigh Martyr, in loving memory of Philip H. Martyr

The McClave Family, in loving memory of Heather McClave

Kathy Mitchell, in loving memory of Joe Mitchell

The Monroe Family, in loving memory of Eleanor Meredith  
Monroe

Melanie and Paul Ohrem & Beth Ann Fetzer, in honor of our  
loving parents

Cindy Ording, in loving memory of Jill and Ray Maulsby

Martha, Steve, Caroline, and Alex Palmer, in loving memory of  
Margo Rundles

Debbie and Doug Raymond, in loving memory of Fannie and  
George Raimanda

The Richey Elliott Family, in memory of loved ones

Karen Stewart, in loving memory of the Schmidt and Stewart  
families

The Swindell Family, in loving memory of Nancy Swindell and  
Doug & Betty Somerville

Bill and Lindsay Tucker, in loving memory of our grandparents

Linda and Jay Twombly, in loving memory of Roy and June  
McNiven and Ray and Rhona Twombly

Peter and Karen Wilson, in loving memory of our parents and  
grandparents

Cindy Vallar, in loving memory of Meryl Vallar

Mary Lou Voss, in loving memory of F. Denney Voss

Thank you to all who gave so generously to our beautiful flower  
display and the many anonymous congregants who  
donated as well.



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

*Senior Minister*

Marianna Kilbride

*Director of Spiritual Formation*

Kelly Antonson

*Senior Youth Director*

Lindsey Daly

*Director of Children's Ministries*

Dr. Michael Burnette

*Interim Director of Music Ministries*

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Teri Reed

USHERS

Thank you for your faithful and dedicated ministry. We are grateful for your commitment to serving others.

Like us on Facebook:

[facebook.com/CCNC1733](https://www.facebook.com/CCNC1733)

Follow us on Instagram:

[connectgodsacre](https://www.instagram.com/connectgodsacre)



The Congregational Church  
*of New Canaan*

23 Park Street  
New Canaan, CT 06840  
(203)966-2651  
[www.godsacre.org](http://www.godsacre.org)

We Welcome All  
Visitors and Newcomers

We are a  
Stephen Ministry church.

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.