

WORSHIP SERVICE  
APRIL 14, 2024, 10:00AM  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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PRELUDE

This Joyful Eastertide

Arthur Somervell

\*HYMN #108

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Madrid

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

Day of Delight

Giovanni Gastoldi

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children three years old through 4<sup>th</sup> grade recess to Room 7*

\*HYMN #428

Christ Beside Me

Bunessan

Verses 1 and 2

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 24:13-35

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"Looking for Christ in All the Wrong Places"

David Stuart

SERMON RESPONSE

Emmaus

Tony Alonso

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

You Have Heard My Prayer

Paul Sjolund

CALL TO OFFERING

*Please pass the burgundy welcome books*

OFFERTORY

Christ Is Our Cornerstone

David Thorne

\*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 #212

Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us

Holy Manna

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

March (from *Occasional Oratorio*)

George Frideric Handel

\*Congregation please stand.

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

### 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).

### 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.

#### 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 5:00-6:30pm 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 MUSIC AND DRAMA

Due to the school break, the Children’s Choirs will not meet this Tuesday, April 16. We will resume normal activity on Tuesday, April 23.

#### COMBINED CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS - APRIL 21

We will offer a combined Church School class next weekend during the public school break for children three through fourth grade. The nursery will be available for children under three.

#### DEDICATE A FLOWER ARRANGEMENT FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Dedicate a floral arrangement to remember someone special who has passed away or who is celebrating a special birthday, anniversary, or graduation. Please contact Tracy Goldman at [office@godsacre.org](mailto:office@godsacre.org) to choose a date and discuss color preference. A suggested donation of \$100 is greatly appreciated.

### 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).

### 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.

### PACIFIC HOUSE HOMELESS SHELTER – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Once a month (every third Thursday), our church provides and serves dinner at the Pacific House Homeless Shelter in Stamford. Volunteers are needed to both contribute food items and serve a hot meal to approximately 60 men residing at the shelter. Contact Andy Parkin at [andyparkin7@gmail.com](mailto:andyparkin7@gmail.com) for details on how to help.

### 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).

WELCOME THE REVEREND ANDREW B. WARNER – APRIL 28

On Sunday, April 28, 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!**

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP SPRING LUNCHEON – MAY 3

Join us for our Annual Women’s Fellowship Spring Luncheon on Friday, May 3. Check your email for more details or reach out to Lesley Cousley, [lacousley@gmail.com](mailto:lacousley@gmail.com) for the RSVP link. The luncheon will be held at The Country Club of New Canaan from 11:30am-1:00pm, and the cost is \$40.

YOUTH MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

Please note there will be no youth programming the week of April 14-21 due to the New Canaan Public Schools’ Spring Break. Programming will resume on Tuesday, April 23. Contact Emma Garner at [emma@godsacre.org](mailto:emma@godsacre.org).



PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

David Stuart

*Raymond Fellow*

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

*Senior Minister*

Marianna Kilbride

*Director of Spiritual Formation*

Dr. Michael Burnette

*Interim Director of Music Ministries*

Anneliese Klenetsky, soprano

*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.

