

WORSHIP SERVICE
MAY 12, 2024, 10:00AM
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE

King of Glory, King of Peace Gerald Near
Chancel Choir

*HYMN #54

For the Beauty of the Earth Dix
Verses 1, 4, and 5

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 98)

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song,

People: For the Lord has done marvelous things.

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.**

All: Let us rejoice in the presence of the Lord!

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 people to Your glory. With humility and hope, we offer this prayer to You, along with 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

Above All Praise

Felix Mendelssohn

Chancel Choir

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING OF THE MSYG MISSION FISH

Leader: God is working among the Middle School Youth Group as they prepare to go to Canaan, Connecticut, to serve at Mountainside. As mission workers, going in the name of Jesus Christ, are you prepared to live together, work together, and pray together; that you might serve the people of Mountainside selflessly, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and for the glory of God?

Fish: We are.

Leader: Members of this community of faith, you have heard these promises. Let us covenant with them to support their mission. If you are able, please stand and join with me in affirming their commitment.

Congregation: We celebrate our partnership with you in humble service of others in the body of Christ. We promise to love and support you as you go out to work in God's name and as representatives of our congregation.

Leader: May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for your work and equip you with everything good to do God's will. In the name of this congregation, I commission you to this work and pledge to you our prayers and support.

Children in grades Pre-K through Grade 7th grade recess to church school classrooms.

*HYMN #374

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant? Servant Song
Verses 1-3

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 1:1-14

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“A Mother's Wish, Our Deepest Desire”
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

SERMON RESPONSE

You Raise Me Up Brendan Graham and Rolf Lovland
Ellie Parkhill, mezzo-soprano

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
Chancel Choir

CALL TO OFFERING

Please pass the burgundy welcome books

OFFERTORY

Aria

Cynthia Dobrinski

Joyful Ringers

*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 #107

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Coronation

Verses 1, 3, and 4

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Barbara Kinyon

Joyful Ringers

*Congregation please stand.

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

The flowers in the Meeting House are given in loving memory of Jean Thomas, beloved mother of James Thomas and grandmother of Ian, Mary Grace, Luke, and Ella Thomas.

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 Anna Rogers at (203) 274-0097 or welcoming@godsacre.org.

Mountainside Participants 2024

Emery Brown, Jackson Cash, Adele Cousley, **Kane Curtin**, Bridget de Kanter, Karlee Doscher, Abby Dunlap, Sophie Dunlap, **Kimie Dyrvik**, Billy Flynn, Jameson Flynn, Sam Hering, **Jake Kozar**, Ryan McGloin, **Alden Meintzer**, **Katie Miller**, Connor Oak, Caroline Palmer, **Jemuel Saint Jean**, Norah Salami, Spencer Skyrn, **Michael Stadnik**, Hailey Tobin, Casey Tobin, Teddy Volanakis, **Rob Williams**

Advisors and Juniors in bold

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL NEXT SUNDAY!

Our children are proud to share *The Fruit of the Spirit* church program with you on Sunday, May 19, during the 10:00am worship service. The children have worked tirelessly the past few months learning about the nine fruits of the Spirit from Galatians, and they would love your presence and support next Sunday. For children participating, we will have our dress rehearsal this Tuesday, May 14, from 3:30-5:30pm. Pizza and refreshments will be provided. Contact Greer Lyle at greer@godsacre.org for more information.

COMBINED CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS – MAY 26

We will be offering a combined church school class over Memorial Day weekend for children who are three years old through fourth grade. The nursery will be available for children under three years of age.

COMMUNION WORKSHOP FOR FOURTH GRADE – MAY 19

Calling all 4th graders! We will be holding a communion workshop on Sunday, May 19, during church school in preparation for the fourth grade First Communion on Sunday, June 2. Please see your email for registration information or reach out to churchschool@godsacre.org.

LISA MILLER EVENT – MAY 21, 7:00-8:00PM

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and we are delighted to welcome back Lisa Miller, PhD, author and Professor of Psychology and Education and director of the Clinical Psychology Program at Teachers College, Columbia University. On Tuesday, May 21, at 7:00pm in the Meeting House, she will discuss her bestselling book, *The Spiritual Child: The New Science on Parenting for Health and Lifelong Thriving*. Combining leading-edge research with broad anecdotal evidence from her work as a clinical psychologist, Miller illustrates how invaluable spirituality is to a child's mental and physical health and translates these findings into practical advice for parents, grandparents and caregivers of children and young adults. Contact Marianna Kilbride, marianna@godsacre.org.

MAASAI 2024 – GOTTA GET SOME GOATS

As the Maasai recover from catastrophic drought, they are acquiring livestock to tend. We hope to raise \$22,000 to buy 400 drought-resistant goats, \$55.00 each, for 200 families. Goat keeping is a sustainable livelihood that will provide women of the tribe, each given two goats, with goat's milk to sell. Please stop by the Maasai table during Fellowship time to learn more and participate. Contact Lindsay Tucker, lindsaytucker08@gmail.com.

MAY PLATE OFFERING

The May plate offering will go towards the Maasai Goat project.

MSYG BAKE SALE – TODAY!

Immediately following the 10:00am service, MSYGers will host a Mother's Day Bake Sale in Smith Hall to help them raise money for their mission trip to Mountainside this June. We hope to see you there!

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 for details on how to help.

RECOVERY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKDAY - MAY 18

Please join us on Saturday, May 18, from 9:00am-2:00pm in prepping sober living spaces for men transitioning from substance abuse treatment to new lives in a newly refurbished home. Meet in the church circle at 9:00am to carpool to Bridgeport. No experience is needed, just an open heart! To RSVP or with questions, contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org.

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION – JUNE 9

A celebrated spiritual milestone in the life of our church is the presentation of the third-grade Bibles. This special occurrence will take place during the service on Celebration Sunday, June 9. Please see your email for a link to register your child to receive their third-grade bible, or reach out directly to churchschool@godsacre.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) REGISTRATION OPEN!

VBS 2024: Carrying the Torch registration for the week of August 19-22 is now open. Register your camper (4 years old-4th grade), your junior counselor (entering 5th- 8th grade) or your senior counselor (entering 9th- 12th grade) to join us for a week of faith building and fellowship. See your email for sign up links or please reach out to churchschool@godsacre.org.

YOUTH MINISTRIES THIS WEEK

5/12 MSYG (Grades 7-8), 11:00am-12:00pm, Bake Sale

5/12 YG – No programming, Happy Mother's Day!

5/14 JYG/Guppies/Minnows- No youth programming. Youth Choirs will host musical rehearsal practice!

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

Senior Minister

Kelly Antonson

Senior Youth Director

Dr. Michael Burnette

Interim Director of Music Ministries

Ellie Parkhill, mezzo-soprano

Soloist

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Twee Haffner

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.

