

WORSHIP SERVICE

JULY 28, 2024, 9:00AM

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE

For the Mountains Shall Depart (from *Elijah*)

Felix Mendelssohn

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

God of our mothers and fathers, and our God:

People: we come to this place to worship and praise You.

Leader: We come because of a deep longing and aching for
Your presence in our lives.

People: We come as we are

Leader: with joys and sorrows,

People: with successes and failures,

Leader: wanting to know You and be known by You,

**People: wanting to bridge the distance that we have
allowed to grow between us.**

Leader: O Lord, draw close to us now.

People: Draw closer to us than our own breathing.

Leader: Look upon our brokenness—

People: and make us whole.

Leader: See into the darkness of our lives—

People: and make us light.

Leader: Hear the silent confessions of our hearts—

People: and extend to us Your forgiveness...

(Silence)

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

All: 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, we are forgiven.

People: Alleluia! Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Violet Laine Victor

daughter of Lily & Matthew Victor

VOWS OF THE PARENTS/GODPARENTS

VOW OF THE CONGREGATION

Deacon: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care for Violet.

UNISON WELCOME

Violet, we the community of The Congregational Church welcome you into our family, which is called the body of Christ. We rejoice in your presence among us, and the presence of your family. As you grow, we will tell you about this moment that we have shared with you, and we will tell you about God's love that has been poured out on you. As you grow, we pray that you will tell us about God's love as it touches you; so together we may reach toward the Kingdom of God. Welcome!

*HYMN (*page 6*)

This Is My Father's World

Terra beata

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 12:1-12

Then he began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this scripture:

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?”

When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“The Vintner Series: Coveting the Vineyard”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

SERMON RESPONSE

Give Me Jesus

Fernando Ortega

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

Barry Rose

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

*HYMN (*page 7*)

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

St. Agnes

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude No. 1 in C Major

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Congregation please stand.

COLLECTION OF OFFERING

Please place your tithes and offerings in the plates provided
as you enter or leave this morning.

Thank you to Linda Avgerinos and Lyn Chivvis for hosting our
fellowship time this morning. Please join us on the front lawn
immediately following the service.

We thank God for beautiful flowers and are grateful to God's
servants for sharing their gifts with us. The flowers displayed this
month have been arranged by Sindi Rusiecki, Maria Stadnik, and
Joanne Sullivan.

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.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS

Children are invited to join the garden service for the remainder
of the summer. Should it be helpful, ushers have activity bags
available for children. Nursery care will continue to be available
for children three and under each Sunday. We will hold a Back-
to-School Chapel Service on August 25 for all ages.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church offices will be closed on Fridays from June 14 to August 30. For pastoral care needs, contact (203)966-2651 x103.

FILLING IN THE BLANKS BACKPACK DRIVE – AUGUST 1-25

We invite you to donate new full-size empty backpacks during the month of August to benefit Filling in the Blanks. Their mission is to fight childhood hunger by providing children in need with weekend meals. Backpacks may be dropped off in the bin in Smith Hall or mailed directly to the church c/o Tracy Goldman. Please contact Tracy at office@godsacre.org with any questions.

GIVING THIS SUMMER

We are grateful for your generous pledges, as they are essential to the operation of our church. While we know many families will be traveling this summer, we encourage you to stay current on your pledge commitment so that we may be best prepared for our fall offerings.

JULY PLATE OFFERING

The July plate offering will go towards Open Doors in Norwalk. Open Doors' mission strives to make a direct impact in the greater Norwalk area by guiding every person in the cycle of homelessness toward housing stability.

PFLAG SUPPORT GROUP

Are you or someone you care about a member of the LGBTQIA+ community? Founded in 1973, PFLAG is the first and largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and their families. We will host a PFLAG support group meeting for adults (18+) in the Parlor on Thursday, August 8, from 6:30-7:30pm to share joys and struggles and lift each other up. RSVPs aren't necessary, but feel free to email polly.obrienmorrow@gmail.com for more information.

RECOVERY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – SUMMER SERVICE

Recovery Community Development can use your help renovating sober living houses in Bridgeport this summer. The work includes a variety of construction tasks and can be coordinated to suit your schedule and skill level. To learn more or to schedule a time, contact Leigh Engen at leigh.engen@gmail.com.

This Is My Father's World

1. This is my Fa-ther's world; and to my lis-tening ears, all
2. This is my Moth-er's world; the birds their car-ols raise, the
3. This is my Mak-er's world; oh, let me ne'er for - get that

The first system of the musical score features a treble and bass staff in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics for three verses. The bass line provides a steady accompaniment.

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the flow - ers bright, de - clare their Mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics describe the beauty of the natural world and the glory of God.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Moth-er's world; she shines in all that's fair; in
This is my Mak-er's world; why should my heart be sad? The

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics express the comfort and joy found in the Creator's world.

rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear her pass; she speaks to me ev - ery - where.
heav - ens ring; let na - ture sing. God reigns; let earth be glad.

The fourth system concludes the musical score. The lyrics praise God's creation and His reign over all things.

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1. Je - sus, the ver - y thought of thee with sweet-ness fills my breast;
2. O hope of ev - ery con - trite heart, O joy of all the meek,
3. But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show:
4. Je - sus, our on - ly joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be;

but sweet-er far thy face to see, and in thy pres - ence rest.
to those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!
the love of Je - sus, what it is none but his loved ones know.
Je - sus, be thou our glo - ry now, and through e - ter - ni - ty.

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

Senior Minister

Dr. Michael Burnette

Interim Director of Music Ministries

Matthew Vitti, baritone

Soloist

DEACON

Mike Rodgers

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 an offering today.

