

WORSHIP SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024, 10:00AM

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE

Let Heavenly Music Fill This Place

Gordon Young

*HYMN #16

O Worship The King

Robert Grant

Verses 1, 2, and 5

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

Leader: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

**People: We will love the Lord our God with all our heart,
and soul, and strength.**

Leader: Keep these words the Lord is commanding you today.

People: We will recite them to our children,

**All: We will talk about them when we are at home
and when we are away, when we lie down and
when we rise.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against
You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and
by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our
whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your
Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we
may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory
of Your Name. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (adapted from Psalm 145:8-9)

Leader: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: God is good to all and divine compassion extends to all creation.

Leader: Receive the good news, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you

ANTHEM

That Name Richard Smallwood/arr. Bradley Knight

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*All children through grade 5 recess to Smith Hall
Grades 6 & 7 remain in the Meeting House through the sermon*

*HYMN #S31

My Faith Looks Up To Thee Charles Wesley
Verses 1, 2, and 4

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 9:30-37

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Who Wants To Be Great?”

Marianna Kilbride

Grades 6 & 7 dismiss to the Parlor

SERMON RESPONSE

The Golden Pathway

Hamilton Gray

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

Hear Our Prayer, O God

George Whelpton

CALL TO OFFERING

Please pass the burgundy welcome books.

OFFERTORY

Holy City

Stephen Adams

*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 #242

God of Life

Cyril V. Taylor

Verses 1 and 4

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Eugene Gigout

*Congregation please stand.

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

The flowers in the Meeting House are given in loving memory of Donald C. Gilbert.

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 Parry Grogan, Juliet Howe, and Jill Robey.

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

AMO MAASAI MISSION TRIP

Join us March 22-April 1, 2025, on our Adult Maasai Mission Trip to Kenya. Meet our longtime Maasai partners and help build a clinic. Sign-ups are in progress and will run through October 4. For more information, contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org.

BIBLE STUDY - THE GOSPEL OF MARK: PLEASE JOIN US!

The first of the canonical gospels, Mark, is also the shortest and fastest paced. It is meant to be offered orally; it is a dramatic read highlighting the urgency with which Mark felt the Gospel needed to be communicated. Join us for eight weeks to delve into Mark's context and meaning through the lens of his own audience and from our own. Offered on Mondays at 7:00am in the Library or 9:15am (Women's) in the Parlor. **Please note the new day and time for Women's Bible Study.** Contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org for more information or a Zoom link.

CHAPIN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to join Chapin's Wednesday Morning Bible Study weekly in the Library from 9:30-11:00am. Contact Chapin Garner at pastor@godsacre.org for more information or a Zoom link.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Please do not forget to register your child for Church School and all other Youth programming.

CLEMENTINE'S PLAYDATES

Clementine's Playdates is a caregiver and child programming opportunity for infants through age 3. Children and caregivers will enjoy time for socialization, play, music, and the introduction of early concepts of faith. Our fall programming will begin on Wednesday, October 2. Please reach out to Sarah Haddad at churchschool@godsacre.org for the link to register.

CONFIRMATION – SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 2 (NEW DATE)

Our confirmation classes will begin October 22 and will be held on alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:00-8:15pm in the Parlor. The mandatory discernment meeting for both parents and prospective confirmands is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2, at 7:00pm. Registration will be distributed following attendance at the meeting. Contact Sarah Haddad at churchschool@godsacre.org for more information.

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 to choose a date and discuss color preference. A suggested donation of \$100 is greatly appreciated.

FALL NEW MEMBER CLASS DATES

Are you interested in joining our family of faith? Please attend our new member sessions this fall. Contact Anna Rogers at welcoming@godsacre.org to learn more, or RSVP.

Orientation Session: Sunday, October 20, 11:15am-1:15pm

Faith Sharing Session: Wednesday, October 23, 7:00-9:00pm

New Member Social: Saturday, October 26, 4:00-6:00pm

New Member Sunday: Sunday, October 27, 9:00-11:00am

FOURTH GRADE FIRST COMMUNION

Next Sunday, October 6, during the service, fourth graders will take part in their first communion. Fourth graders will sit together at the front of the Church in the designated area. Please join us in celebrating our fourth graders as they complete this milestone in their spiritual growth.

INSPIRICA SNEAKER TREE

Thank you to all who signed up to provide a new pair of sneakers to a homeless child. Please note that sneakers are due back to Smith Hall by Sunday, October 6. Contact Debbie Shew, scwheatenterrier@yahoo.com.

MEN'S SMALL GROUP MINISTRY KICKOFF – TOMORROW EVENING

The men in our church are blessed to have many ways to walk together and support each other throughout the year. Join us for our introductory Men's Small Groups Meeting tomorrow, Monday, September 30, at 7:30pm in the Fellowship tent. We will explain how to get involved and kick off our program year. Contact Steve Case at scase135@outlook.com to RSVP.

OCTOBER READING GLASSES COLLECTION

Readers, cheaters, whatever you call reading glasses, we hope to collect 100 new or gently used pairs of any strength. The Bridgeport Hospital acute care geriatric psychiatric unit utilizes word puzzles to keep their patients mentally engaged. Needed readers break and go missing. Please drop off glasses in the bin in Smith Hall. Contact Angelina Rao, RN, MSN, araohawk@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER PLATE OFFERING

Our plate offering during September goes to Inspirica, our Stamford partner striving to end homelessness and housing insecurity, largely in Fairfield County.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP - OCTOBER 6

We will offer a contemporary worship service with communion on the first Sunday of each month, October through May, in the Chapel from 6:00 to 6:45pm. We invite you to join us and share this offering with anyone you think might be interested.

WOMEN'S SMALL GROUPS

Small Groups within our church are essential to deepening our engagement with others and with God. Join us to explore our faith journeys as they play out in our daily lives. Groups are now forming and will begin gathering in October. Participate in our monthly meetings in person or via Zoom. If interested, contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org.

YOUTH THIS WEEK

Join us for your respective youth group! New friends are always welcome! For questions about our ministries, contact Kimmie Dyrvik at kimmie@godsacre.org. For questions about registration, contact Allison Wolter at youthgroup@godsacre.org.

Sunday, September 29

Mead Park Games, Middle School Youth Group (MSYG),
grades 6-8, 4:00-5:30pm (at Mead Park)

Family Agape Dinner, Youth Group (YG),
grades 9-12, 6:00-7:30pm

Tuesday, October 1

Guppies, grades 2 & 3, 4:30-5:30pm

Wednesday, October 2

JYG Late Night, grades 4 & 5, 6:00-9:00pm

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

Senior Minister

Marianna Kilbride

Director of Spiritual Formation

Lindsey Daly

Director of Children's Ministries

Nerva Altino

Director of Music Ministries

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Tammie Garner

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.

