

WORSHIP SERVICE

OCTOBER 27, 2024, 10:00AM

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE

What Then Will God Do With Me?

John Atteberry

Children's Choirs

*HYMN #S9

Praise The Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

Roland H. Prichard

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 96)

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song;

People: Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Leader: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

People: The Creator is to be revered above all gods.

Leader: Honor and majesty; strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary.

All: Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before the holy one, all the earth.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of new life, we mean to do well, but our intentions are soon discarded. We try to be faithful, but we are diverted by so many things. We do not wish to harm anyone, but, without thinking we sometimes hurt those we love the most. We sympathize with those who suffer more often than we act with them. We refuse to accept the help of others because we are unwilling to admit our needs. Reform our attitudes and behavior until in every circumstance we may, by Your grace, be the instruments of Your saving Word. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: There is no greater joy in the heart of God than the moment when a child opens to the gift of forgiveness. God's spirit reaches out to assure us of forgiveness.

People: All that we regret shrinks in importance - all that we are blossoms and grows.

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you

ANTHEM

Meditation of My Heart

Elaine Hagenberg

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM & RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Sullivan Hayes Craigle

son of Charles & Alexandra Craigle

Samuel Harper Loboda

son of John & Brynn Loboda

THE ROLL CALL OF THE CANDIDATES

(New members, please come forward as your name is called.)

BAPTISMAL VOWS

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 ones about to be baptized as they live and grow in Christ?

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

*WELCOME TO THE CHURCH (unison)

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. As we grow together, we will cherish this moment that we have shared with you. As you grow in your faith, we pray that you will tell us about God’s love as it touches you; so that together, we may reach toward the Kingdom of God, sharing together in the hopes, the labors, and the joys of the Church of Christ. Welcome!

THE CHURCH COVENANT (unison)

We do covenant with the Lord and with one another, and do bind ourselves in the presence of God to walk together in all His ways, according as He is pleased to reveal Himself unto us in His blessed word of Truth. Amen.

*Children ages Pre-K - Grade 5 recess to classrooms for Church School
Grades 6 and 7 remain in the Meeting House through the sermon*

*HYMN #68

Though I May Speak

William Vaughn Jenkins

Verses 1 and 3

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 10:46-52

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Blind Faith”

The Rev. Kent Siladi

Grades 6 & 7 dismiss to the Parlor

SERMON RESPONSE

Majesty

Martin Smith/Stuart Garrard

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER RESPONSE
Sweet Hour of Prayer

William Bradbury

CALL TO OFFERING

Please pass the burgundy welcome books.

OFFERTORY

How Great Thou Art Stuart K. Hine/arr. Dan Forrest

*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 #102

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah John Hughes

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Old Hundredth Psalm Ralph Vaughn Williams

*Congregation please stand.

Thank you to the Bottini and Stinchcomb families for hosting our fellowship time this morning. Please join us for coffee in Smith Hall 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 Carol Bayne, Dana Marchiony, Polly Morrow, Alyssa Resnick, 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.

Please Welcome Our New Members

Garrett & Melissa Baker
Brookside Road
Bryson, Luke, Anna

Katharine Reagan
Ponus Ridge Road
Ben & Henry

Mark & Jamie Buschmann
Dans Highway
Dylan, Tyler, Luke, Lily

Kevin & Kristie Smith
Devonwood Lane
Jordan, Emma, Sophie,
Delaney, Brady

Kevin & Olga Heldt
Old Rock Lane, Norwalk
Josephina

Joanne Sullivan
Post Road, Darien

David & Terri Leopold
Down River Road

George Thalheim
Middlesex Road, Darien
Inga & Annabel

Jason & Tyler Lucking
Walnut Place, Wilton
Logan & Palmer

Mimi Weekley
Heritage Hill Road

Gail Junion-Metz
Silvermine Road

Peter & Molly Wright
Woodbine Road, Stamford
Lettie

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PAGEANT SIGN-UP IS HERE!

This year, the Christmas Pageant will be a part of our 4:00pm family service on Christmas Eve. All children in grades Pre-K through 7 are encouraged to join. Rehearsals will take place on Sundays during Church School and weekly during Children's Choir, with a dress rehearsal on Sunday, December 22 in the early afternoon. Select rehearsals after church may be added as needed. Casting request forms will be available after church by the Children's Music and Drama Bulletin Board in Smith Hall. Casting request forms are due by Sunday, November 3. There will be a Parent Meeting directly after the 10:00am service on November 3 in the Meeting House. Feel free to email Greer Lyle at greer@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.

HELPING HANDS NEEDED

Please consider joining our new Helping Hands Ministry to support and uplift fellow church members. Whether someone is ill, recovering from a hospital stay, or going through a challenging or joyous life event, our team of "Helping Hands" provide support and love by offering a meal, running an errand, giving a ride, or dropping in for a visit. If interested in being part of this ministry, please contact Sharon MacLachlan at sharontinayvette@icloud.com.

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

One of the church's missions is meeting emergency needs as they arise around the world. MSA has recently voted to donate \$10,000 on your behalf to the Christian community of Taybeh Parish in the West Bank, Palestine, and \$15,000 domestically to recently flooded areas through Americares.

MUSIC MINISTRIES – SAVE THE DATE

On Sunday, December 15, at 5:00pm, the Music Ministries will be presenting a Christmas Concert. We are extending an invitation to those who would like to sing with our Chancel Choir to come and join us for this Holiday Celebration. We rehearse every Thursday, at 7:30pm, for 45 minutes. If you would like to join us, please email the Director of Music Ministries at nerva@godsacre.org.

OCTOBER PLATE OFFERING

Our plate offering this month goes to our longtime partner, Pivot Ministries, a nine-month residential drug and alcohol addiction program. Contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org.

OCTOBER READING GLASSES COLLECTION – LAST CALL!

Readers, cheaters, or 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, at araohawk@gmail.com.

ONGOING BIBLE STUDIES AND BOOK GROUPS

Monday Morning Bible Study (Mark), 7:00-8:00am, Library
Monday Women's Bible Study (Mark), 9:15-10:15am, Parlor
Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Chapin, 9:30-11:00am, Library
Thursday Mind & Spirit Bible Study (every other), 8:15-9:30am, Library
Friday Merton & Friends (*Simplicity*), 8:00-9:00am, Zoom Only
Contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org for more information or a Zoom link.

PRAYING FOR OUR COUNTRY: SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP – 11/3

We will offer a contemporary worship service with communion on the first Sunday of each month 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.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 3

If your loved one has died since our service last November, please give us their name by Tuesday, October 29, so it can be included in the bulletin. Contact Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org with any questions.

SENIOR/FRESHMAN YG RETREAT DONATIONS

We are looking for Midnight Run donations for our Senior/Freshman YG Retreat. We are looking for new socks, underwear, hats, gloves and jackets as well as toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant. These donations will be handed out alongside a hot meal to those that are homeless or otherwise in need. A donation bin will be in Smith Hall for those that feel called to donate.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT – IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Join us this morning immediately following the 10:00am service. YG will host a Trunk-or-Treat event for the children of our church and community in the back parking lot!

WELCOME REVEREND DR. SARAH LUND – NOVEMBER 2-3

On Saturday, November 2, from 4:00-5:00pm, Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund will deliver a keynote address, “Essential Conversations for Parents: A Mental Health Survival Guide,” centered on how to raise mentally healthy children while nourishing oneself as a parent. Q&A will follow. On Sunday, November 3, she will preach at the 8:00am and 10:00am services, with an opportunity to continue the conversation from 11:15am-12:15pm in the Chapel.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP CAKE & COFFEE – NOVEMBER 7

Please join us for cake, coffee, and camaraderie at the inviting home of church member Anne Wagner (94 Elm Place) on Thursday, November 7, at 9:30am. We will serve coffee and light refreshments. Contact Lesley Cousley at lcousley@gmail.com to RSVP or if you would like to bake.

YOUTH THIS WEEK

Join us for your respective youth group! For questions about our ministries, contact Kimmie Dyrvik at kimmie@godsacre.org.

Sunday, October 27

Youth Group (YG), grades 9-12,

Trunk or Treat (Covenant event), 10:00am–12pm (note time)

Middle School Youth Group (MSYG), grades 6-8,

Fall Super Day, 3:30–5:30pm

Friday, November 1 to Saturday, November 2

Senior/Freshman Retreat, Youth Group (YG)

8:00pm Friday night to 2:30pm Saturday afternoon

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

Senior Minister

The Rev. Kent Siladi

Pastor in Residence

Marianna Kilbride

Director of Spiritual Formation

Anna Rogers Smith

Welcoming Team Chair

Nerva Altino

Director of Music Ministries

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Lauren Baker

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.

