

WORSHIP SERVICE  
MAY 11, 2025, 10:00AM  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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PRELUDE

Lead Me, Lord

S.S. Wesley

\*HYMN #51

All Creatures of Our God, Now Sing                      St Francis of Assisi  
Verses 1, 2, 3, and 4

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 people 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

He Watches Over Israel

Felix Mendelssohn

#### 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 Pre-K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade recess to Church School classrooms.  
Grades 6-7 remain in the Meeting House through the sermon.*

\*HYMN #224

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart  
Verses 1 and 5

George Croly

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 9:1-20

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

**All:** **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“It Takes A Village (And Then Some)”

Kelly Antonson

*Grades 6-7 recess to the Parlor*

SERMON RESPONSE

Goodness of God

Ben Fielding/Jen Johnson

Hailey Tobin, soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

Into My Heart

Harry Clarke

## CALL TO OFFERING

*Please pass the burgundy welcome books*

## OFFERTORY

How Great 'Thou Art

Stuart 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 #238

The Church's One Foundation      Samuel Stone/Samuel Wesley  
Verses 1, 2, and 4

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Variations on "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Isaac Watts Bach/arr. Nerva Altino

\*Congregation please stand.

The flowers today are given in loving memory of  
Josephine Tatton and Carmela DeMarco,  
beloved mother and grandmother of Wendy Cassell.

Thank you to Mark McLain and Matthew Oak 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 Anna Rogers at (203) 274-0097 or  
[welcoming@godsacre.org](mailto:welcoming@godsacre.org).

## NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

### ADULT FORMATION

Monday, May 12, 7:00-8:00am, Monday Morning Bible Study, Library

Monday, May 12, **8:15-9:15am**, Women's Bible Study, Library

Wednesday, May 14, 9:30-11:00am, Chapin's Bible Study, Library

Friday, May 16, 8:00-9:00am, Merton & Friends, Zoom Only

### CALL SUNDAY AND SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Associate Minister Search Committee is pleased to announce that it unanimously recommends Kelly Antonson as our Associate Minister for Children, Youth, and Families. Save the date Sunday, June 1, for coffee with the candidate at 9:00am, a candidate call sermon during 10:00am worship, followed immediately by a Special Meeting of the Congregation. **Worship on June 1 will be at 10:00am only.** Please join us for this important and joyful moment in the life of our church!

### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED - STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Church Offices will be closed on Monday, May 12, for an off-site Professional Development seminar. For Pastoral Care concerns, please contact 203-966-2651 ext. 103.

### COMBINED CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS - MAY 25

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

### 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.

### MAY FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED

If you are interested in hosting coffee hour in May, please sign up online or on the Fellowship bulletin board in Smith Hall. It is an easy way to serve the church; everything is provided for you! Contact Laurel Carr at [laurel@godsacre.org](mailto:laurel@godsacre.org) with any questions.

### MAY PLATE OFFERING

The May plate offering will go towards Filling in the Blanks, which aims to fight childhood hunger by providing children in need with weekend meals.

### 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.

### PRAYER MINISTRY

The Prayer Ministry will meet in the **Chapel from 3:00-3:30pm every Wednesday** for a time of silent prayer and reflection. This dedicated space and time will give us the opportunity to come together and put the power of prayer into action in a communal and peaceful setting. All are welcome! If you'd like to join the Prayer Ministry or make a prayer request, please contact Barb Clayton at [barb@godsacre.org](mailto:barb@godsacre.org).

### THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

A celebrated spiritual milestone in the life of our church is the presentation of the third-grade Bibles. This will take place during the service on Celebration Sunday, June 8. Check your email for a link to register your child to receive their third-grade Bible, or contact Sarah Haddad at [churchschool@godsacre.org](mailto:churchschool@godsacre.org).

SAVE THE DATE – BEACON OF LIGHT CELEBRATION, MAY 29

On Thursday, May 29, at 6:30pm, we will meet to celebrate the wonderful program year God made possible for our youth ministries. We will have a special celebration for our high school seniors, followed by dinner and dessert on the lawn outside the Meeting House. The cost of this special evening is \$25 per person. Sign up using the QR code below! All youth in grades K-12 and their families are encouraged to attend.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

For questions about our youth ministries programming, please reach out to Kimmie Dyrvik at [kimmie@godsacre.org](mailto:kimmie@godsacre.org).

**Sunday, May 11**

No YG or MSYG – Mother's Day

**Monday, May 12**

Minnows, grades K-1, 3:30-4:30pm

**Tuesday, May 13**

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

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

*Senior Minister*

Kelly Antonson

*Senior Youth Director*

Nerva Altino

*Director of Music Ministries*

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 an offering today.

