

WORSHIP SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025, 10:00AM

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE

Variations on “Fairest Lord Jesus”

Joseph Seiss/arr. Nerva Altino

*HYMN #102

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

William Williams/John Hughes

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 100)

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

People: **Worship with gladness; come into the Lord’s presence with singing.**

Leader: Know that the LORD is God. The Creator made us; we are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture.

People: **Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving and praise. Give thanks and blessing.**

All: **For God is good; the Creator’s steadfast love endures forever.**

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.

Silence

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.**

All: Alleluia! Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

ANTHEM

Panis Angelicus (O Lord, Most Merciful)

Cesar Franck

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children in grades Pre-K through Grade 5 recess to Smith Hall.

Grades 6 & 7 remain in the Meeting House through the sermon.

*HYMN #192

My Song Is Love Unknown

Samuel Crossman/John Edwards

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 16:13-20

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Ask Me a Question”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

Grades 6 & 7 recess to the Parlor

SERMON RESPONSE

Here's My Worship

Phil Thompson

Caroline Haddad, soloist

William Haddad/soloist, piano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior (chorus)

Fanny Crosby

CALL TO OFFERING

Please pass the burgundy welcome books

OFFERTORY

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Robert Robinson/arr. Mack Wilberg

*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 #S25

He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought

Joseph Gilmore/William Bradbury

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Eugene Gigout

*Congregation please stand.

Today, we welcome the following musicians to our service:

Joe Sabia and Jonathan Malko, trumpet

Glenn Rhian, timpani

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.

The Disciples Deck Question:
“But who do you say that I am?”

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

ALL-CHURCH FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH – 11:00AM TODAY!

Join us for the All-Church Fellowship Brunch immediately following the 10:00am worship service in Smith Hall. There will be plenty of food and fellowship for all to enjoy!

BIBLE STUDY – ROMANS, ROMANS, ROMANS!

Romans is the longest of the St. Paul's letters. Containing many famous quotes and much to wrestle with theologically, it is always a pleasure to read and discuss together. No Bible study experience is necessary, and all are welcome. Three options to study are: Starting September 22, Monday Morning Bible Study 7:00-8:00am, Library and on Zoom, Monday Morning Women's Bible Study 9:15-10:15am, Library and on Zoom, and **starting October 2, New Study: Early Morning Men's Bible Study, 1st and 3rd Fridays, 6:00-7:00am, Parlor.** Contact Sean Kelley at seankelley05@gmail.com to learn more about our Early Morning Men's Bible Study, and contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org for all other Bible study questions.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Welcome to Kickoff Sunday! Please do not forget to register your child for church school and all other youth programming. We are seeking to hire a teacher in our 4th/5th grade class. Additionally, we are looking for a volunteer parishioner to support the middle school post-sermon debrief once a month. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Sarah Haddad at churchschool@godsacre.org.

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 1. Registration begins tomorrow. Be on the lookout for an email with a link to register or reach out to Sarah Haddad at churchschool@godsacre.org.

CHURCH SCHOOL DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Please take a printed map in the narthex for room locations.

Nursery (2 months to 3 years): Drop off opens at 9:45am prior to service. Pick up following service.

Pre School (3s/4s): Drop off in Room 1 prior to service. Pick up following service.

Kindergarten/First Grade: Families have the option to drop off in Room 4 prior to service or children can begin in the Sanctuary. Pick up following service.

Second/Third Grade: Children begin in Sanctuary with families. Pick up in Room 3B following service.

Fourth/Fifth Grade: Children begin in Sanctuary with families, meet in Room 7. Children are released to Smith Hall following service.

Sixth/Seventh Grade: Children begin in Sanctuary with families and remain in the service through the sermon. Children exit to the Parlor after the sermon for a discussion-based class and will be released to Smith Hall following service.

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.

EMPTY & SMALLER NEST BREAKFAST – SEPTEMBER 21

Is your child(ren) off to college this fall? Whether one or all, this new season brings both tender goodbyes and exciting possibilities. Join us for breakfast on Sunday, September 21 at 9:00am in the Parlor with fellow parents and pastoral staff as we gather in community and discover joyful ways to be present and embark on this chapter together. Contact Kelly Antonson at kelly@godsacre.org with questions.

FALL FELLOWSHIP - HOSTS NEEDED

If you would like to host a coffee hour this fall, please get in touch with Laurel Carr at laurel@godsacre.org or sign up in Smith Hall after worship.

FALL FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL – SEPTEMBER 19

Reunite with church friends this fall and enjoy a delicious paella-themed dinner! Join us on Friday, September 19, at the Carriage



Barn Arts Center from 7:00-10:00pm. Please bring your favorite adult beverage to share. The cost is \$30pp. Scan the QR code to RSVP or email Laurel Carr at laurel@godsacre.org by September 12.

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14

If you want to learn more about the Helping Hands Ministry and join this enthusiastic team, please attend our Helping Hands Ministry Information Meeting on Sunday, September 14 at 9:15am in the Parlor. Whether you're already part of this rewarding ministry team or interested in learning more, we hope you will come. All are welcome. Contact Sharon MacLachlan at sharontinayvette@icloud.com with questions.

HOMEFRONT DAY – SIGN-UP TODAY!

Join us on Saturday, September 20 at 9:00am to repair and rehab a Norwalk neighbor's home who cannot do so for health, age, or financial reasons. No experience necessary, and lunch is included! Ages 14 and up are welcome. Sign-up at the Missions Table during fellowship time or contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org.

KICKOFF SUNDAY – TODAY!

We are excited to kick off our church school year this morning! Classroom options for infants through 7th grade will be waiting to welcome all children. Come reconnect with old friends and teachers and meet new ones! Stay after church for fun, food, fellowship, and activities. Be sure to visit the “Sneaker Tree” following the service for an opportunity to purchase a pair of new kicks for a kid in need! This is a wonderful, family-friendly outreach opportunity.

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.

SEPTEMBER PLATE OFFERING & SNEAKER TREE

Our plate offering during September goes to Inspirica, our Stamford partner striving to end homelessness and housing insecurity, largely in Fairfield County. Beginning today, sign-up to buy sneakers for a chosen child. Sneakers may be returned to the box in Smith Hall or mailed directly to the church (c/o Tracy Goldman) no later than October 5. Contact Debbie Shew at scwheatenterrier@yahoo.com with questions.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP CAKE AND COFFEE

You’re warmly invited to enjoy cake, coffee, and good company in the church Parlor on Thursday, September 11, at 9:30am. We will gather and reconnect with friends old and new. To RSVP or if you would like to bake, contact Ally Dunlap at allydunlap@hotmail.com.

WOMEN'S AND MEN'S SMALL GROUPS

Small Groups within our church are essential to deepening our engagement with others and with God. Join us to explore together our faith journeys as they play out in our daily lives. Groups will begin gathering in September and will meet monthly. Participate in person or via Zoom. To learn more, contact the following: Women's Small Groups: Marianna Kilbride, marianna@godsacre.org; Men's Small Groups: Steve Case, scase135@gmail.com.

YOUTH MINISTRIES & CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

We are excited for the upcoming year with our youth! For any questions about youth programming, please contact Kimmie Dyrvik at kimmie@godsacre.org. For questions about youth choirs, please contact Greer Lyle at greer@godsacre.org.

Sunday, September 7

MSYG, Kickoff Celebration, grades 6-8, 4:00-5:30pm

YG, Kickoff Celebration, grades 9-12, 6:00-7:30pm

Monday, September 8

Minnows, Kickoff Celebration, grades k-1, 4:00-5:00pm

Tuesday, September 9

Guppies, Kickoff Celebration, grades 2-3, 4:00-5:00pm

Spirit Singers, grades 2-3, 5:00-6:00pm

Thursday, September 11

JYG, Kickoff Celebration, grades 4-5, 4:00-5:00pm

Joyful Noise, grades 4-5, 5:00-6:00pm

YOUTH REGISTRATION

Registration is still open for the upcoming year. Please scan the QR code below to register your child(ren) for the program year. All children must be registered to participate in youth ministries, church school or children's choirs – please reach out to Kimmie Dyrvik at kimmie@godsacre.org with any questions.



PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

Senior Minister

Kelly Antonson

*Associate Minister for Children, Youth
and Families*

Marianna Kilbride

Director of Spiritual Formation

Lindsey Daly

Director of Children's Ministries

Nerva Altino

Director of Music Ministries

Leigh Engen

AV Tech Leader

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Steve Quinn

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.

