

WORSHIP SERVICE
APRIL 12, 2026, 10:00AM
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE

Ach Gott und Herr (Oh God, And Lord)

JS Bach

*HYMN #26 Verses 1, 2, & 4

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander

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

*Children ages 3 through 4th grade recess to Room 7 for a
Combined Church School Class.*

*HYMN (*page 7*)

Lamb of God

Twila Paris

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20:19-29

(Matthew 28:16-17; Luke 24:40-41)

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Proof in Practice”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

AMO REFLECTIONS

Roger Bolton and Beth Simon

RESPONSE

Worthy is the Lamb

Carol Cymbala

Khanisha Moore, soloist

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

Great is Thy Faithfulness

William Runyan/arr. Nathan Carter

*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

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

(We eat the bread as we receive it. We drink the cup together.)

COMMUNION MUSIC

Panis Angelicus

Cesar Franck

*HYMN #S12 Verses 1, 2, & 4

How Great Thou Art

Carl Boberg

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Variations on “My Hope is Built”

Edward Mote/arr. Nerva Altino

*Congregation please stand.

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Marianne Chabot on the 27th anniversary of her passing, by her husband, Rodney, and their children, Helen and Erik.

The Disciples Deck Question:
Card 32: “Have you believed because you have seen me?”

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

APRIL PLATE OFFERING

The April plate offering will be split between Inspirica, Pacific House, and Open Doors. Your generous donations will directly benefit the homeless in our local communities.

CHILDREN'S SPRING MUSICAL SIGNUP IS HERE!

This year we will be performing *A Table for Five... Thousand!* A beautiful retelling of the miracle of Jesus from the perspective of a humble child. The children's musical will be on May 17, 2026, during the 10:00am service. Playable parts are available for children ages 4 to grade 5, with grades 6-8 able to sign up as Junior Directors. Please sign up by April 17. The sign-up QR code can be found on the Youth Announcements board in Smith Hall. For more information, email Greer Lyle at greer@godsacre.org.

COMBINED CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS TODAY

Today, we will be offering a Combined Church School class in Room 7 for children ages 3 through 4th grade due to the public-school break. The nursery will be available for children under three years of age.

LET'S TALK, NEW CANAAN! – SAVE THE DATE

On Saturday, May 16 from 9:00am-12:00pm at the Lapham Center, the New Canaan Clergy Association will host a unique community conversation designed to bridge divides and strengthen our town. Guided by Rev. Dr. Allen Hilton, participants from across political perspectives will engage in a respectful “Life Swap” practice—listening deeply to one another’s stories and convictions. This missional outreach invites neighbors to move beyond labels, build empathy, and rediscover



the power of connection. You are invited and encouraged to join this hopeful morning of dialogue, understanding, and community renewal. Register using the QR code or contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org.

NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS ON APRIL 13

In the Acts of the Apostles, we read of the arrival of the Holy Spirit, the formation of the early church, and the conversion of Paul. It is an exciting journey into the past that continues to inform our present and future. Join us on Mondays in the Library, 7:00-8:00am or 9:15-10:15am (Women’s). Zoom participation is available. Contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org with questions or to sign up.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

Registration for Vacation Bible School Camp will open April 15. Come join us for “God Squad: Adventures in Faith” on August 17-20 (Monday through Thursday from 9:00am-12:00pm) at the Church. We will have an action-packed week exploring Bible Superhero stories through games, activities, songs, crafts and more. Children ages 4 through 4th grade are invited to participate as campers while middle school and high school students can register to be junior and senior counselors. Registration information will be shared via email. We look forward to having you join us for another memorable VBS experience of faith-building, fellowship, and fun!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SPRING LUNCH – MAY 1

Join us for our Women's Fellowship Spring Lunch. Enjoy a midday gathering of fellowship, food, and words of wisdom from our beloved church members. The lunch will be held at The Country Club of New Canaan at 12:00pm on Friday, May 1. Check your inbox for more details. Contact Laurel Carr at laurel@godsacre.org with questions.

YOU'RE INVITED! SPRING CELEBRATION CONCERT

On Saturday, April 25, at 5:00pm, Music Ministries will present a Spring Celebration Concert, featuring performances by the Chancel Choir and the Children's and Youth Choirs, along with musical guests and instrumentalists. Please join us for an evening of inspiring music, community, and gratitude, as we gather in support of the Mary Bradley Clarke Fund.

YOUTH MINISTRIES & CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

This week, we have an introductory rehearsal for our spring musical! Signups are still open. We will also have our JYG Mini Mission Trip to Pivot Ministries. If you missed the signup window, email Greer to see if there is availability. For any questions, please contact Greer Lyle at greer@godsacre.org.

Sunday, April 12

No MSYG or YG – Hope you had a wonderful spring break!

Monday, April 13

Cherub Choir, ages 4-grade 1, 4:00-5:00pm

Tuesday, April 14

Spring Musical Introductory Group Rehearsal, ages 4-grade 5, 4:00-5:30pm (No Guppies or Spirit Singers)

Friday, April 17 – Saturday, April 18

JYG, grades 4-5, Overnight Mini Mission Trip to Pivot Ministries

Lamb of God

for congregational singing

Words and Music
Twila Paris

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Your on-ly Son no sin to hide, but You have sent Him from Your side
Your gift of love they cru - ci - fied they laughed and scorned Him as He died
I was so lost I should have died, but You have brought me to Your side

6

to walk up - on this guil - ty sod and to be - come the Lamb of God
The hum-ble King they named a fruad and sa - cri - ficed the Lamb of God
to be led by Your staff and rod and to be called a Lamb of God

11

Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God I love the Ho - ly Lamb of
Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God I love the Ho - ly Lamb of
Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God I love the Ho - ly Lamb of

15

God O wash me in His pre-cious blood My Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.
God O wash me in His pre-cious blood My Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.
God O wash me in His pre-cious blood My Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

Senior Minister

Marianna Kilbride

Director of Spiritual Formation

Nerva Altino

Director of Music Ministries

USHERS

Jim Clayton, Anne Gunter,
Scott Gunter, Penny Mardoian

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Will Flynn

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 your pledge today.

