



*Alleluia!  
Christ is Risen*

WORSHIP SERVICE

APRIL 5, 2026, 9:00 AND 11:00AM

EASTER SUNDAY

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PRELUDE

I've Just Seen Jesus (duet) Bill & Gloria Gaither  
Greer Lyle, soprano  
Megan Maloney, soprano

Fanfare on "Christ the Lord is Risen" Nerva Altino

\*HYMN #205

Christ the Lord is Risen Today Charles Wesley

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

God so Loved the World

John Stainer

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*(Children aged 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade recess to the Chapel)*

\*HYMN (*page 9*)

Lamb of God

Twila Paris

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20:11-18 (John 10:10 & 14:6)

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

**All: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“What Are You Looking For?”

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

SERMON RESPONSE

The Old Rugged Cross

George Bennard

Bryan Griffin, tenor

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As a congregation we pray together, led by our deacon— through  
word, silence, and The Lord's Prayer (sins)

PRAYER RESPONSE

I Just Want to Thank You, Lord!

Judy Marshall

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Love Divine

Rowland Prichard/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

\*HALLELUJAH CHORUS

Chancel Choir & Congregation

GF Handel

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata (from 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony)

Charles M. Widor

\* Congregation please stand.

Our church nursery offers childcare for children under the age of three. If you are new to the church and need help finding the nursery, please see an usher.

This year's Easter offering will go directly to Pacific House (Stamford), Inspirica (Stamford), and Open Doors (Norwalk). Your generous donation will directly benefit those in greatest need in our local communities through the provision of meals, emergency and transition housing, and comprehensive support services to men, women, and families while seeking to address the root causes of homelessness. Thank you!

We welcome guest musicians worshiping with us this morning: Jake Henry, trumpet, Jose Montenegro, trumpet, and Glenn Rhian, timpani.

The Disciples Deck Question:  
Card 31: "Woman, why are you weeping?"

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

### 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](mailto:greer@godsacre.org).

### EASTER EGG HUNT INSTRUCTIONS

We invite all families to participate in our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Gods Acre following the worship service. Children in the nursery can be picked up in the nursery and proceed to the flagged egg hunt area, reserved for our littlest (under age 3) church goers. Families with children in preschool, please meet your child in the Parlor. The preschool egg hunt will begin in the Parlor and take place in the Memorial Garden and on the playground. All children in kindergarten and up will begin their egg hunt in the front circle. There will be bins for egg return near the Parlor doors. Happy Easter!

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:marianna@godsacre.org) with questions or to sign up.

### NO CHURCH SCHOOL

We invite children aged 3 and under to the nursery during our 11:00am service. Ages 4 and up are encouraged to enjoy the service in the Meeting House. As always, Smith Hall is open for families who might need more room to move around during the service.

### SPRING BREAK ON GOD'S ACRE

Join us for some spring break fun as we take a break from our normal youth offerings April 5-12 and enjoy some fun outings together! If you plan to stay home for break or are in school this week, we hope you make some time to fellowship with your church family! Sign up forms through CCB will be emailed to church families. Parent chaperones and volunteers are welcome! For more information, contact Greer Lyle at [greer@godsacre.org](mailto:greer@godsacre.org).

#### **Tuesday, April 7**

Sky Zone and Lunch Outing, grades k-8, 10:00am-2:00pm

#### **Wednesday, April 8**

Bagels and Donuts Church Playground Hangout, grades k-2,  
10:30-11:30am

Rock Climb Fairfield Outing, grades 3-8, 2:00-5:00pm

### 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](mailto: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

Happy Easter! Normal youth programming is paused this week due to spring break, but we have several offerings for spring break fellowship. Find Spring Break on God's Acre in the bulletin. For more information, email Greer Lyle at [greer@godsacre.org](mailto:greer@godsacre.org).

# Lamb of God

*for congregational singing*

Words and Music  
Twila Paris

$\text{♩} = 65$

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

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

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

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.

## EASTER FLOWERS

*The beautiful Easter flowers are given by members and friends as an expression of joy in the season and faith in the Resurrection.*

- Chuck and Lauren Baker, in memory of loved ones  
Sara Bakker, in honor of her parents, Richard and Marcia Bakker  
The Bausman Family, in loving memory of Mary-Fred Bausman  
and Jane Bausman  
Ann and Bruce Benedict, in loving memory of our parents,  
Mr. & Mrs. C.W. Benedict and Mr. & Mrs. Irwin B. Somerville, Jr.  
The Cain Family, in loving memory of James M. Cain, Jr.  
Jane Campbell, in loving memory of Clyde Campbell  
Barb and Jim Clayton & Family, in loving memory of their  
parents, Alice and Larry Kurth and Barb and Curt Clayton  
and their nephew, John Henry Kurth  
The de Kanter Family, in memory of our beloved Mimi and  
Mom, Linda Glenn  
James and Charlie Fusco, in loving memory of Grampy  
The Garofoli Family, in loving memory of Al Shuskus and Mary  
and Joe Garofoli  
Nancy Gilbert, in loving memory of Donald Gilbert and  
Dr. Kermit Todd & Jessie Webster Todd  
Joby Gray, in loving memory of Bowman Gray and the  
Whitman Family  
Parry Grogan, in loving memory of David Grogan  
Peter Hayward, in loving memory of Carol Chambliss and  
Charles Hayward  
Hope Hetherington, in loving memory of John Hetherington,  
Jane Murphy, John Luke, Jr., Alice Gates, and Joy & John Luke  
The Hill Family, in loving memory of Bob Montgomery and  
Theresa Hill  
The Kennedy Family, in loving memory of Bob and Sally Kennedy  
Sherri Kielland & Family, in loving memory of Halvor C. H. Kielland  
Marianna and Rick Kilbride, in loving memory of Marianna's  
mother, Charlotte Thompson, and brother, David Thompson  
Terri and Dave Leopold, in loving memory of our parents,  
Bob & Pat Leopold and Bob & Gwen Laughlin  
The Lindner Family, in loving memory of Mary Maas and  
Marian Lindner  
The Marchiony Family, in loving memory of Adrian DeGroot

Leigh Martyr, in loving memory of Philip Martyr  
Kathy Mitchell, in loving memory of Joe Mitchell  
Brett, Cannon and Turin Nardini, in loving memory of  
    Alfred & Jean Nardini  
Martha, Steve, Caroline, and Alex Palmer, in loving memory of  
    Margo Rundles  
Ed, Emily and Ward Panko, in loving memory of Judy Hatch  
The Picard Family, in loving memory of Gloria Ces and Jack Lacy  
The Pohle Family, in loving memory of Ibby & Bob Malott and  
    Kay & Bob Pohle, parents and grandparents of Liza, Chris,  
    Drew, Eliza, and Henry  
Debbie, Doug and Matthew Raymond, in appreciation of  
    The Congregational Church of New Canaan for your  
    continued prayers and support of our family  
The Richey Elliott Family, in memory of loved ones  
Sindi Rusiecki, in loving memory of David Dearborn  
The Russell Family, in loving memory of Pat Ruggiero  
Carrie and Ben Sanders, in loving memory of Bonnie Massey  
Sue and Bob Schroeder, in memory of loved ones  
The Stadnik Family, in loving memory of Ludmila & Dmitry Stadnik  
The Swindell Family, in memory of those we love and miss dearly  
Pat Thatcher, in loving memory of her niece, Peggy Thatcher,  
    and her friend, Jeff Urstadt  
The Thomas Family, in memory of our beloved family and friends  
Linda and Jay Twombly, in loving memory of our parents  
Cindy Vallar, in loving memory of her mom, Meryl Vallar  
Mimi Weekley and Susie McNamee, in loving memory of their  
    mother, Margaret Thompson  
Deborah Weir, in loving memory of her parents, Norma and  
    Walter Jaynes  
Whitney and Nick Williams, in loving memory of  
    Betsy & Ed LeGard and Patricia & Mal Williams

Thank you to the Hayes Family, Gail Stewart, and all who gave so  
    generously to our beautiful flower display and the many  
    anonymous congregants who donated as well.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

*Senior Minister*

Kelly Antonson

*Associate Minister for Children, Youth  
and Families*

Lindsey Daly

*Director of Children's Ministries*

Nerva Altino

*Director of Music Ministries*

Lauren Baker & Alex Reinman

*Deacons*

Eliana Cañas Parra

*Seminary Intern*

USHERS

Todd Baker, Anne Gunter,  
Scott Gunter, Hal Holappa,  
Niles Howard, Fatou Niang,  
Teri Reed, and Mike Rodgers

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Will Flynn

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Follow us on Instagram:  
[connectgodsacre](https://www.instagram.com/connectgodsacre)



The Congregational Church  
*of New Canaan*

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New Canaan, CT 06840  
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[www.godsacre.org](http://www.godsacre.org)

We Welcome All  
Visitors and Newcomers

We are a  
Stephen Ministry church.

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.