

WORSHIP SERVICE
MAY 17, 2026, 10:00AM
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE

We are Standing on Holy Ground

Geron Davis

*HYMN #210 Verses 1, 2, 3, & 5

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Matthew Bridges

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 98)

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song,

People: For the Lord has done marvelous things.

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.**

All: Let us rejoice in the presence of the Lord!

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

THE CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

A Table for Five...Thousand!

Written by Tom S. Long and Allen Pote

Adapted by Greer Lyle

ANTHEM

My Boat is Small

Tom S. Long and Allen Pote

Charlotte Stinchcomb, soloist

Scene 1: Benjamin and His Family

SONG

Jesus is Coming

Janice Kapp Perry

Scene 2: The Arrival of Jesus

ANTHEM

Come If You're Weary Tom S. Long and Allen Pote
Jack Hawkins and Teddy Lindner, soloists

Scene 3: The Followers of Jesus

Scene 4: Excuses

SONG

Excuses Tom S. Long and Allen Pote

Scene 5: Humility

SONG

Be As Humble as a Child Tom S. Long and Allen Pote
Teddy Lindner, soloist

Scene 6: Jesus Feeds the 5000

ANTHEM

The Miracle Tom S. Long and Allen Pote
Lexi Carlson, Evy Oak, Reed Arestia, Piper Skibitcky,
Bea Snyder, Sawyer Ponzeka, Emma Daly, Lily Lindner, soloists

HYMN (*page 4*)

I Am the Bread of Life Suzanne Toolan

Verse 1 Only: Congregation sings along, seated

I Am the Bread of Life



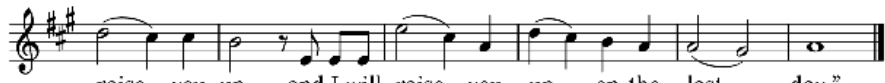
1 "I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not
2 "The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the
3 "Un - less you eat of the flesh of the Son of
4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion; I am the
5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that you are the



hun - ger, and who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
world, and if you eat of this bread, you shall live for -
Man and drink of his blood, and drink of his
life. If you be - lieve in me, e - ven though you
Christ, the Son of God, who has



me un - less the Fa - ther beckons." "And I will raise you up, and I will
ev - er; you shall live for - ev - er."
blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
die, you shall live for - ev - er."
come in - to the world.



raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day."

*HYMN #S21

Blessed Assurance

Fanny Crosby

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Medley on “Jesus Loves the Little Children/Jesus Loves Me”

Herbert Woolston/Anna Warner/arr. Nerva Altino

*Congregation please stand.

<p>The Disciples Deck Question: Card 37: “I am asking on their behalf”</p>
--

Thank you to Doug & Debbie Simpson for hosting our fellowship time this morning. Please join us for coffee in Smith Hall immediately following the service.

PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING

The prayer shawls displayed today were made with love and prayers by our Prayer Shawl Ministry. The shawls are given to those experiencing significant life challenges. During our prayers today, we ask for God's blessing on the shawls and pray for those who receive them. New members are always welcome. No experience is needed! For more information, contact Twee Haffner at tweehaffner@gmail.com or (203) 966-0606.

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.

DO YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

If you have a prayer request, please email Kelly Antonson at kelly@godsacre.org or Barb Clayton at barb@godsacre.org.

A TABLE FOR FIVE...THOUSAND!
CAST

Benjamin: Charlotte Stinchcomb

Narrators

Evelyn Oak
Piper Skibitcky

Reed Arestia
Sawyer Ponzeka

Bea: Bea Snyder

Bella: Emma Ott

Bitsy: Josephina Heldt

Bibi: Chloe McEwan

Jesus: Teddy Lindner

Mary Magdalene: Lexi Carlson

Mary of Bethany: Emma Daly

Mary Mother of James & Joseph: Amelia Sharp

Martha: Lily Lindner

Zaccheus: Lily Stinchcomb

Joanna: Genevieve Wilbur

Susanna: Juliette Hawkins

Thomas: Bobby Ott

John: Kirk Holden

Andrew: Landon Antonson

Philip: Jack Hawkins

Crowd

Charlie Daly
Charlie Schimmel
Boden Westendarp

Claire Grube
Thatcher Grube
Annie Denlinger

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED – STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Church offices will be closed on Monday, May 18, for an off-site Professional Development seminar. For Pastoral Care concerns, please contact 203-966-2651 ext. 103.

COMBINED CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS ON MAY 24

We will be offering a combined church school class over Memorial Day weekend for children ages 3 through 4th grade. The nursery will be available for children under three years of age.

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED

If you are interested in hosting coffee hour in May or early June, 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 with any questions.

HUNGRY FOR MORE? FEAST ON THE WORD!

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.” Scripture is meant to nourish us spiritually, challenge us, and help us grow in faith. If you are looking to engage the Bible more deeply, here are a few places to begin:

- Join one of our Bible Studies
- Explore engaging videos and biblical overviews at www.bibleproject.com
- Watch *The Chosen*, a retelling of the life of Jesus
- Introduce children to VeggieTales
- Pick up Chapin’s devotional, *As the Spirit Moves*, in the church office or in the Narthex

MAASAI 2026 – BUILDING CLASSROOMS BUILDING HOPE

Please help us raise \$30,000 to build two new desperately needed classrooms for our Maasai friends. Education is one of the three pillars of our partnership, along with water and food sustenance. Your support will help provide safe, inspiring spaces for learning, increase access for local students (especially for girls and children with disabilities), and increase enrollment. Every contribution, big or small, brings us closer to giving these children the chance for a brighter future through education. Last March, a group of church members visited the Maasai community in rural Kenya with whom we have partnered for over twenty years. They participated in the construction of a medical center and improved the local girls' shelter. We saw firsthand how each of these projects, and our past projects, are positively impacting the community. We had the opportunity to visit the local schools where our congregants have supported students with scholarships. The teachers and children welcomed us and showed us what they were working on and their facilities. In one school, some of our group “taught” for a day and saw firsthand how the classrooms were filled beyond capacity. Two new classrooms will help provide much-needed space for the children in the village to get the education they need and deserve. Stop by the table in Smith Hall to learn more and participate. Please contact Beth Picard at bpicard44@gmail.com for more information.

MAY PLATE OFFERING

The May Plate offering will go to the Maasai 2026 project. Your generous donation will go towards building two much-needed classrooms.



PACIFIC HOUSE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS & FOOD DONATIONS

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 provide food items (especially a baked Ziti!) and serve a hot meal to approximately 60 men residing at the shelter. Contact Andy Parkin at andyarkin7@gmail.com for details on how to help.

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 worship on Celebration Sunday, June 14. Please check your email for a link to register your child for their third-grade Bible, or contact Sarah Haddad at churchschool@godsacre.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION EXTENDED

Registration has been extended for Vacation Bible School Camp! 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. Sign up today - registration closes this Friday! Contact Sarah Haddad at churchschool@godsacre.org with any questions.

YOUTH MINISTRIES & CHILDREN’S CHOIRS

This is a not-to-miss almost last week of youth activities! Flyers for this month can be found in Smith Hall. For any questions, please contact Greer Lyle at greer@godsacre.org.

Sunday, May 17

YG, grades 9-12, YG End of Year Celebration, 5:00-6:30pm
MSYG, grades 6-8, MSYG Late Night, 7:00-8:30pm

Monday, May 18

Minnows, grades K-1, Random Acts of Kindness Day, 4:00-5:00pm

Tuesday, May 19

Guppies, grades 2-3, Random Acts of Kindness Day, 4:00-5:00pm
No Spirit Singers, grades 2-3

Thursday, May 21

JYG, grades 4-5, Random Acts of Kindness Day, 4:00-5:00pm
No Joyful Noise, grades 4-5
Quest, grades 6-12, 7:00-8:30pm

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

Senior Minister

Kelly Antonson

*Associate Minister for Children, Youth
and Families*

Greer Lyle

*Director of Youth Ministries and
Children's Music*

Nerva Altino

Director of Music Ministries

Nick Dupey

Guitar

Payce deMarco

Clarinet

USHERS

Fatou Niang & Teri Reed

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Hope Hetherington

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.