

WORSHIP SERVICE
MAY 3, 2026, 10:00AM
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

PRELUDE

Organ Voluntary “Lasst Uns Erfreuen” Robert Lind

*HYMN #353 Verses 1, 2, & 4
Called as Partners in Christ’s Service John Zundel

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

Children ages PreK- Grade 3 recess to Smith Hall to meet your teachers for the Chapel service. Grades 4-7 remain in the Meeting House.

*HYMN (*page 7*)

How Great is Our God Chris Tomlin/Jesse Reeves/Ed Cash

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 22:34-40

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Love Lived”
Kelly Antonson

SERMON RESPONSE

Here I Am, Lord

Dan Schutte

Megan Maloney, soprano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

There is a Balm in Gilead

Spiritual

CALL TO OFFERING

Please pass the burgundy welcome books

OFFERTORY

Amazing Grace

John Newton/arr. Nerva Altino

*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

Laudate Dominum (Praise Ye the Lord)

WA Mozart

*HYMN #368

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

John Fawcett

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Battle of Jericho

Spiritual/arr. Nerva Altino

*Congregation please stand.

The flowers today are given in memory of our beloved mothers and grandmothers, Mary Sullivan and Jean Thomas, from the Thomas family - James, Eileen, Ian, Mary Grace, Luke, and Ella.

The Disciples Deck Question:
Card 35: “What do you think of the Messiah?
Whose son is he?”

Thank you to Mimi Weekley and Susie McNamee 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.

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.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

LET’S TALK, NEW CANAAN! – MAY 16

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.



MAASAI 2026 – BUILDING CLASSROOMS BUILDING HOPE

Please help us raise \$30,000.00 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.

MOTHER'S DAY MSYG BAKE SALE

Please join us during fellowship time after the 10:00am service on **May 10** to support the MSYG Mission Trip to Mountainside. We will have a variety of delicious baked goods available for sale that are convenient Mother's Day treats! Remember to bring extra cash for the bake sale. Venmo also accepted.

MSYG CAR WASH AND MAY FAIR PARKING

Stop by the church on Saturday, May 9 between 10:00am-2:00pm to freshen up your ride and support our MSYG Mission Trip to Mountainside! For the economical price of \$20, your vehicle will be meticulously washed by our middle schoolers. Complimentary parking at the church for the May Fair at St. Marks is included with each car wash!

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. Check your email for a link to register your child to receive their third-grade Bible or contact Sarah Haddad at churchschool@godsacre.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration is open 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. Registration closes May 15. Contact Sarah Haddad at churchschool@godsacre.org to learn more.

YOUTH MINISTRIES & CHILDREN’S CHOIRS

Be sure to come to choir for children’s musical rehearsals this week – May 17 is much closer than it feels! For any questions, please contact Greer Lyle at greer@godsacre.org.

Sunday, May 3

MSYG, grades 6-8, *Shaving Cream War, 4:00-5:30pm
(*be sure to bring extra clothes!)
YG, grades 9-12, Volleyball Tournament, 7:00-8:30pm

Monday, May 4

Minnows, grades K-1, Stepping Stones of Faith, 4:00-5:00pm

Tuesday, May 5

Guppies, grades 2-3, Faith Bake, 4:00-5:00pm
Spirit Singers, grades 2-3, Children’s Musical Rehearsal, 5:00-6:00pm

Thursday, May 7

JYG, grades 4-5, Faith Bake, 4:00-5:00pm
Joyful Noise, grades 4-5, Children’s Musical Rehearsal, 5:00-6:00pm

Saturday, May 9

MSYG, grades 6-8, MSYG Car Wash, 10:00am-2:00pm

How Great Is Our God

Words and Music by
Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves
and Ed Cash

♩ = 76

G **Em7**

1 The splen - dor of the King, 2 And age to age He stands, 1 clothed in maj - es - ty; 2 and time is in His hands;

C2

Let all the earth re - joice, Be - gin - ning and the End, all the earth re - joice, Be - gin - ning and the End, He wraps, The God -

G **Em7**

Him - self in light, head, three in one, and dark - ness tries to hide, Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

C2

and trem - bles at His voice, the Li - on and the Lamb, and trem - bles at His voice, the Li - on and the Lamb, How great, How great

⌘

G **Em7**

is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!

Last time to Coda

Cmaj7 **D** **G2**

And all will see how great, how great is our God! 2 And

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

Kelly Antonson

*Associate Minister for Children, Youth
and Families*

Marianna Kilbride

Director of Spiritual Formation

Nerva Altino

Director of Music Ministries

Lindsay Tucker

Maasai Liaison

Eliana Cañas Parra

Seminary Intern

USHERS

Lesley Cousley, Anne Gunter,
Scott Gunter

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.