

WORSHIP SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026, 10:00AM

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE

Jesu, Word of God Incarnate

WA Mozart

*HYMN #26

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Joachim Neander

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, as we offer now our silent prayers of confession, 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.**

Leader: Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

ANTHEM

The Last Words of David

Randall Thompson

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Henry Rhodes Craigle

son of Charles and Alexandra Craigle

Bennett Clifton McAndrews

son of Oke and Martha McAndrews

VOWS OF THE PARENTS/GODPARENTS

VOW OF THE CONGREGATION

Deacon: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations
and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do
you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament,
promise your love, support, and care to the ones
about to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

**People: We promise our love, support, and care for Henry
and Bennett.**

BAPTISM

*UNISON WELCOME

**Henry and Bennett: We, the community of The
Congregational Church, welcome you into our family,
which is called the body of Christ. We rejoice in your
presence among us, and the presence of your family. As
you grow, we will tell you about this moment that we**

have shared with you, and we will tell you about God's love that has been poured out on you. As you grow, we pray that you will tell us about God's love as it touches you; so together we may reach toward the Kingdom of God. Welcome!

Children ages PreK- Grade 5 recess to Smith Hall to meet your teachers for Church School. Grades 6 & 7 remain in the Meeting House.

*HYMN

Shout to the Lord

Darlene Zschech

Verse:

My Jesus, my Savior
Lord, there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Chorus:

Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You
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SCRIPTURE LESSON

Numbers 21:4-9 & John 3:14-17

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"The Serpent Savior"
Chapin Garner

SERMON RESPONSE

I Trust in God

Elevation Worship

Khanisha Moore, soprano

Grades 6 & 7 recess to the Parlor

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Joesph Scriven

CALL TO OFFERING

Please pass the burgundy welcome books

OFFERTORY

It Is Well with My Soul

Horatio Spafford/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 #102

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

William Williams

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Fanny Crosby/arr. Nerva Altino

*Congregation please stand.

Thank you to Sherri Kielland and Linda & Jay Twombly 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.

We thank God for beautiful flowers and are grateful to God's servants for sharing their gifts with us. The flowers displayed this month have been arranged by Carol Bayne, Juliet Howe, and Marmee Lyon.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

2026-2027 PROGRAM GUIDE

We are excited to begin a new program year together as we enter an important season of discernment in the life of our church. Use the QR code below to view our scriptures for the year and learn more about this exciting season as we listen, reflect, and seek where the Holy Spirit is leading us.



AI ETHICS AND FAITH

On October 25, it is our great pleasure to welcome to the pulpit **Dr. Wesley J. Wildman**, Professor of Philosophy, Theology, and Ethics, and of Computing and Data Sciences at Boston University. An expert in AI and its ethical use, Dr. Wildman, is particularly focused on how we can prepare our children for a future that includes artificial intelligence. We invite you to learn more about his work at WesleyWildman.com. Following the service, Dr. Wildman will join us at **11:15am in the Chapel** for discussion. Bring your questions! To learn more, contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org.

CHAPIN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to join Chapin's Wednesday Morning Bible Study weekly in the Library from 9:30-11:00am. Contact Chapin Garner at pastor@godsacre.org for more information or a Zoom link.

EARLY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This fall, the Early Morning Men's Bible Study will dive into the book *Lead with Prayer: The Spiritual Habits of World-Changing Leaders*. Our study, drawing from the Bible and the book, will help us develop practical tools and habits to become leaders who pray - in our homes, workplaces, and the community. **Starting October 2**, we will meet twice a month, on Fridays from 6:00-7:00am. Contact seankelley05@gmail.com to sign up or learn more.

FALL BIBLE STUDY – EXODUS

The Exodus is the Hebrew Bible's theologically rich foundational story of liberation, featuring the burning bush, plagues, Passover, the Red Sea crossing, the Ten Commandments, and the golden calf! Join us Mondays, 7:00-8:00am or (Women) 9:15-10:15am in the Library or via Zoom. Contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org with questions or to sign up.

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.

FOURTH GRADE FIRST COMMUNION

Next Sunday, October 4, our fourth graders will take part in their first communion during the 10:00am service. Fourth graders will sit together at the front of the Church in the designated area. Please join us in celebrating our fourth graders as they complete this milestone in their spiritual growth.

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

One of the blessings of belonging to a church family is knowing that we can support one another in times of need. Our 'Helping Hands' volunteers provide rides to church, doctor appointments, and other important destinations. They also assist with light grocery shopping, library returns, and various everyday tasks. Whether you are looking for assistance or would like to serve others through this meaningful ministry, please contact Sharon MacLachlan at Sharontinayvette@icloud.com.

HOMEFRONT DAY – SIGN-UP TODAY!

Join us on Saturday, October 3 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.

INSPIRICA SNEAKERS – DUE OCTOBER 4

Thank you to all who signed up to provide a new pair of sneakers for a homeless child. Please note that sneakers are due back to Smith Hall by Sunday, October 4. Contact Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org with any questions.

MEN'S SMALL GROUPS KICKOFF MEETING

Guys, all are welcome to join us for the kickoff of our Small Groups on Monday, September 28 at 7:30pm. Come connect with other men, grow in your faith, and explore how God is working in our everyday lives. We'd love to have you join us!

NEW MEMBER CLASS - FALL 2026

Interested in joining our family of faith? Sign up for our fall new member sessions to meet our leaders and learn about the traditions that have shaped life on God's Acre. Contact Anna Rogers at welcoming@godsacre.org by October 11.

New Member Orientation Class:

Sunday, October 18, 11:15am-1:15pm

New Member Faith Sharing Class:

Wednesday, October 21, 7:00-9:00pm

New Member Sunday:

Sunday, October 25, 9:00-11:00am

SEPTEMBER PLATE OFFERING

Our plate offering during September goes to Inspirica, our Stamford partner striving to end homelessness and housing insecurity, largely in Fairfield County.

USHERS NEEDED!

Looking for a meaningful way to serve our church? Consider becoming an usher! Serving just once a month, ushers play a vital role in our community by offering a warm welcome to members and guests, building connections as people enter and exit, and helping ensure the safety and welfare of everyone during the service. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please speak with Hal Holappa or Teri Reed after the service today, or reach out to holappahal@aol.com or treed04@gmail.com. We'd love to have you on the team!

YOUTH THIS WEEK

Please note, JYG will meet for our Late Night. Invite a friend!
For more information, contact Greer Lyle at greer@godsacre.org.

Sunday, September 27

MSYG, grades 6-8, Scavenger Hunt, 4:00-5:30pm

YG, grades 9-12, YG Worship, 7:00-8:30pm

Monday, September 28

Minnows, age 5-grade 1, Plague Pandemonium!, 4:00-5:00pm

Tuesday, September 29

Guppies, grades 2 & 3, Blindfold Challenge, 4:00-5:00pm

Spirit Singers AND Joyful Noise, grades 2-5, 5:00-6:00pm

Friday, October 2

JYG, grades 4 & 5, JYG Late Night!, 6:00-10:00pm

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

Chapin Garner

Senior Minister

Kelly Antonson

*Associate Minister for Children, Youth
and Families*

Nerva Altino

Director of Music Ministries

Leigh Engen

AV Tech Leader

Lauren Baker

Deacon

USHERS

Courtney deKanter

Mike Holland

Meredith Petitjean

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
your pledge today.