

WORSHIP SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026, 9:00AM

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE

Total Praise

Richard Smallwood

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

(Let us pray.)

Leader: Healing, Holy God, Giving and Forgiving God:

People: From whom every good thing does come,

Leader: We offer You hungry hearts waiting to be filled.

People: Fill our hearts with a sense of Your presence.

Leader: We offer You souls aching to be touched:

People: Fill our souls with Your all-loving spirit.

Leader: We offer You lives inundated with everyday needs:

People: Fill our lives with a sense of peace.

Leader: We offer You lives that are less than they might be:

People: Forgive those moments when we disappoint You.

Leader: We offer You lives where we follow our own desires:

People: Forgive those moments when we forget whose we are.

Leader: We offer You lives that fail to see the needs of others:

People: Forgive those moments when our self-focus blinds us.

Leader: Hear the confessions we offer now silently:

People: And extend to us the grace of Your forgiveness.

Silence

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

All: 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 Pre-K – 4th grade recess to the combined classroom

*HYMN (*page 6*)

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee LV Beethoven/Henry V. Dyke

SCRIPTURE LESSON

James 2:14-18

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith apart from works, and I by my works will show you faith.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Love in an Open Field"

Kelly Antonson

SERMON RESPONSE

Head to the Heart

United Pursuit

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC

Waymaker/You Deserve the Glory

Sinach/Eva-Lena Hallmark

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

*HYMN (*page 7*) Verses 1, 2, 3, & 5

For All the Saints

Ralph Vaughan Williams

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Spiritual/arr. Nerva Altino/William How

*Congregation please stand.

Thank you to the Daly and Simpson families for hosting
fellowship time this morning. Please join us for refreshments
after the service.

COLLECTION OF OFFERING

Please place your tithes and offerings in the plates provided
as you enter or leave this morning.

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

8:00AM & 10:00AM WORSHIP SCHEDULE RESUMES SEPTEMBER 13

We will resume our regular worship schedule beginning next Sunday. Worship is on Sundays at 8:00am in the Chapel, or 10:00am in the Meeting House beginning Sunday, September 13. Nursery care is available for both services, and Church School will be offered at 10:00am.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Today, nursery care is available for children ages 3 and under. Children ages 4 through 4th grade are invited to a combined church school class. **Regular Church School classes will resume next week on September 13.**

FELLOWSHIP KICKOFF BRUNCH

Join us for the Fellowship Kickoff Brunch on Sunday, September 13, following the 10:00am worship service. There will be plenty of food and fellowship in Smith Hall for all to enjoy! Check your email for ways to contribute or contact Laurel Carr at laurel@godsacre.org.

FELLOWSHIP TAILGATE SOCIAL – SEPTEMBER 26 AT 6:30PM

All adults are invited to the Parsonage on September 26! Enjoy college football, wings, BBQ, and fellowship time. Wear your favorite team jersey and bring an adult beverage to share. Reconnect, meet new friends, and celebrate fall together! The cost is \$30 per person. Invitations are in your inbox. Contact Laurel Carr at laurel@godsacre.org with questions.

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.

SEPTEMBER PLATE OFFERING & SNEAKER TREE

Our plate offering during September goes to Inspirica, our Stamford partner striving to end homelessness and housing insecurity, largely in Fairfield County. Beginning Kickoff Sunday, sign-up to buy sneakers for a chosen child. Sneakers may be returned to the box in Smith Hall or mailed directly to the church (c/o Tracy Goldman) no later than October 4. Contact Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org with questions.

YOUTH KICKOFF NEXT WEEK



We are excited to start our 2026-2027 program year! Programming begins on September 13. Please use the QR code to register. For more information, email greer@godsacre.org.

Minnows, age 5 - grade 1, Mondays biweekly, 4:00-5:00pm

Cherub Choir, age 4 - grade 1, Mondays biweekly (begins 9/21), 4:00-5:00pm

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

Spirit Singers, grades 2 & 3, Tuesdays, 5:00-6:00pm

JYG, grades 4 & 5, Thursdays, 4:00-5:00pm

Joyful Noise, grades 4 & 5, Thursdays, 5:00-6:00pm

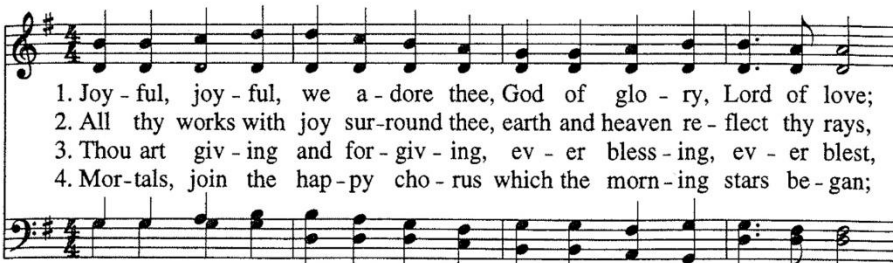
MSYG, grades 6-8, Sundays, 4:00-5:30pm

YG, grades 9-12, Sundays 7:00-8:30pm, ***6:00-7:30pm** on 9/13

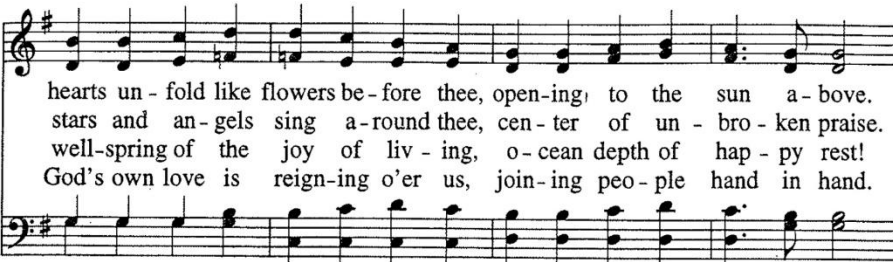
Quest, grades 9-12, 3rd Thursday monthly, 7:00-8:30pm

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

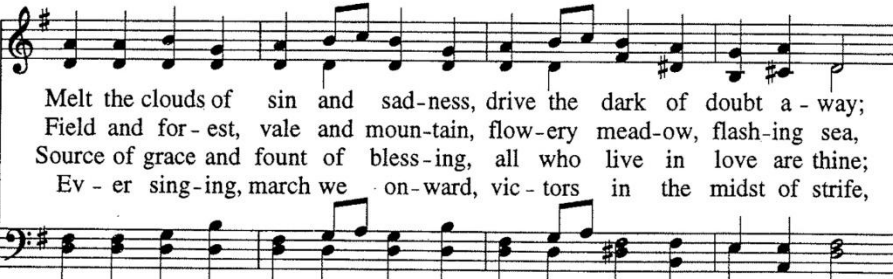
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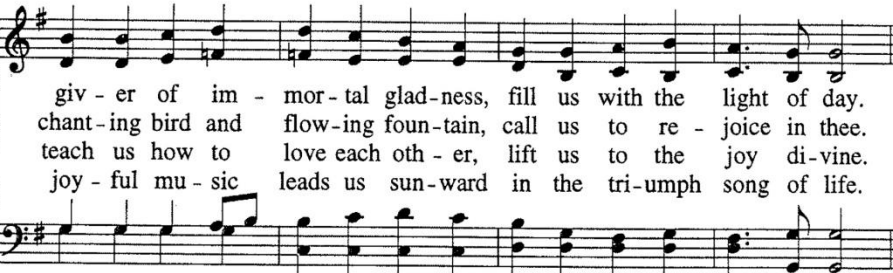
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2. All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
 4. Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho - rus which the morn-ing stars be - gan;



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, open-ing, to the sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
 God's own love is reign-ing o'er us, join-ing peo - ple hand in hand.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-ery mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Source of grace and fount of bless-ing, all who live in love are thine;
 Ev - er sing-ing, march we on - ward, vic - tors in the midst of strife,



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di-vine.
 joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

For All the Saints

1. For all the saints who from their la - bors rest,
 2. Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might:
 3. O may thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,
 4. O blest com - mun - ion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
 5. And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,

who thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
 fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old, and
 We fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and

name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 win with them the vic - tor's crown of gold.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written for a voice and piano. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the soprano voice, with piano accompaniment in both hands. The lyrics are arranged in five systems, each corresponding to a line of the hymn. The first system includes five numbered verses. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system includes a full line of lyrics. The fourth system includes a full line of lyrics. The fifth system includes the final line of lyrics, 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, providing harmonic support for the vocal melody.

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner

Senior Minister

Kelly Antonson

*Associate Minister of Children, Youth
& Families*

Nerva Altino

Director of Music Ministries

Khanisha Moore, soprano

Soloist

Leigh Engen

AV Tech Leader

Alex Reinman

Deacon

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Steve Quinn

USHERS

Anne & Scott Gunter

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 an offering.

