

WORSHIP SERVICE

OCTOBER 18, 2026, 10:00AM

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE

Ah, God Look Down From Heaven

Johann Pachelbel

*HYMN #28 (verses 1, 2, & 4)

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Traditional

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 96)

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song;

People: Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Leader: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

People: The Creator is to be revered above all gods.

Leader: Honor and majesty; strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary.

All: Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before the Holy One, all the earth.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of new life, we mean to do well, but our intentions are soon discarded. We try to be faithful, but we are diverted by so many things. We do not wish to harm anyone, but, without thinking we sometimes hurt those we love the most. We sympathize with those who suffer more often than we act with them. We refuse to accept the help of others because we are unwilling to admit our needs. Reform our attitudes and behavior until in every circumstance we may, by Your grace, be the instruments of Your saving Word. With confident hope we offer this prayer, and the silent confessions of our hearts.

Silence

Amen.

Leader: There is no greater joy in the heart of God than the moment when a son or daughter opens to the gift of forgiveness. God's spirit reaches out to assure us of forgiveness.

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Ride the Chariot Spiritual/arr. Henry Smith
Megan Maloney, soprano

Percival Lowell Hall
son of Taylor and Wesley Hall

Weston James Pinell
son of Julianne and Blake Pinell

VOWS OF THE PARENTS/GODPARENTS

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 Percy and Weston.

*UNISON WELCOME

Percy and Weston: 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 classrooms for Church School.
Grades 6 and 7 remain for sermon.*

*HYMN

Thy Word

Amy Grant/Michael W. Smith

Chorus:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

Verse 1:

When I feel afraid
Think I lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
And nothing will I fear
As long as You are near
Please be near me to the end
{back to chorus}

Verse 2:

I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end
{back to chorus}

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 33:7-23
(Exodus 4:24-26; John 15:12-15; Hebrews 1:1-3)

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

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Fierce Friend”

Chapin Garner

Grades 6 and 7 recess to the Parlor.

SERMON RESPONSE

Take My Life and Let it Be

Frances Havergal

Lily Mikita, soprano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER RESPONSE

Let the Words of My Mouth

Warren Wiersbe

CALL TO OFFERING

Please pass the burgundy welcome books

OFFERTORY

He’s Got the Whole World

Spiritual/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 #110 (verses 1, 2, 3, & 5)

Jesus Shall Reign

Isaac Watts

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Variations on “To God be the Glory”

Fanny Crosby/arr. Nerva Altino

*Congregation please stand.

Thank you to Marie-Ange Masters and the Schimmel family 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.

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) 917-7374.

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

AI ETHICS AND FAITH – NEXT SUNDAY

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.

AMO MISSION TRIP TO SAN ANTONIO: SIGN UP TODAY!

Sign-up for our AMO Mission Trip, February 27-March 5. We will partner with our friends at Blueprint Ministries in San Antonio, Texas. Fellowship, Tex-Mex, hard work, reflection – it's all in the transformational mix. Stop by the Missions Table or contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org with questions or to sign up.

BIBLE STUDIES THIS WEEK

Join a Bible study this week. New participants are always welcome. Come as your schedule allows! Contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org for more information or a Zoom link.

Monday, October 19, 7:00-8:00am, Morning Bible Study, Library
Monday, October 19, 9:15-10:15am, Women's Bible Study, Library
Wednesday, October 21, 9:30-11:00am, Chapin's Bible Study, Library
Thursday, October 22, Faith & Mental Wellness, 8:30-9:30am, Library
Friday, October 23, 8:00-9:00am, Merton & Friends, Zoom Only

HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN

Next Sunday, we invite children to join our High Schoolers for a Halloween celebration behind the church. Children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes, and we ask that all parents pick up their children from Church School and accompany them to the back parking lot. There will be trick or treating and Halloween crafts and games for all.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES - HARVEST MEAL

Save the date for a Fall Family Harvest Meal on **Sunday, November 8 from 4:30-6:00pm**. Join us for fellowship, food, and fun as we usher in the season of gratitude together.

LADIES NIGHT – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7:00PM

Ladies, come out and enjoy wine, cheese, and connection at Linda Twombly's home. Justin from Craftbottlz will lead a fun tasting. A perfect night out before the holidays! The cost for the tasting is \$25. Contact Liz McClave at lizmcclave@yahoo.com to RSVP.

OCTOBER PLATE OFFERING

Our plate offering this month goes to our longtime partner, Pivot Ministries, a nine-month residential drug and alcohol addiction program.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY IS ON NOVEMBER 1

If your loved one has died since our service last November, please give us their name by **Tuesday, October 27**, so it can be included in the bulletin. Contact Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org with any questions.

YOUTH THIS WEEK

The YG Parent Meeting is from 7:00-8:30pm tonight and is mandatory for at least one guardian per fish looking to travel on the Mission Trip. Next Sunday is Trunk or Treat, hosted by YG fish following 10:00am worship! For more information, email youthgroup@godsacre.org.

Sunday, October 18

MSYG, grades 6–8, Most Dangerous Games, 4:00–5:30pm
*YG, grades 9–12, Parent Meeting and Trunk or Treat Prep, 7:00–8:30pm *covenant event

Monday, October 19

Cherub Choir, age 4–grade 1, 4:00–5:00pm

Tuesday, October 20

Guppies, grades 2–3, Blessing Burritos, 4:00–5:00pm
Spirit Singers, grades 2–3, 5:00–6:00pm

Thursday, October 22

JYG, grades 4–5, Blessing Burritos, 4:00–5:00pm
Joyful Noise, grades 4–5, 5:00–6:00pm

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

USHERS

Hal Holappa

Teri Reed

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Lauren Baker

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

today.

