WORSHIP SERVICE
NOVEMBER 1, 2026, 10:00AM
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE
Pie Jesu, from "Requiem" — John Rutter
Greer Lyle, soprano

* HYMN #11
Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones — John A. Riley

WORDS OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 30)
Leader: We have cried to You God of life and You have healed us!
People: You have restored us to new life!
Leader: Sing praises to God all you saints. Give thanks to God's holy name!
People: God's favor is for a lifetime and beyond.
Leader: Hear us, O God, and be gracious! You have turned our mourning into dancing.
All: We will give thanks to You forever and ever!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)
Gracious God, we come before You, a people too nearly conformed to this world and its values. We've been too busy for the care of our bodies or the development of our minds and spirits. We neglect the nurture of our best selves. We spend our money on that which is not bread. Yet we ignore our own hunger and thirst for You and Your righteousness. Join us at our table and transform us by Your Spirit, as we offer the silent confessions of our hearts.
Silence
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Neither this world nor your life is so broken that God cannot restore it to wholeness. Trust and believe that, after separation, reconciliation is possible.

People: God does show us the way home.

Leader: In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

All: 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

Give Thanks — Henry Smith

Verse:
Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son

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Chorus:
And now, let the weak say "I am strong"
Let the poor say "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us

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Let the poor say "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us
Give thanks
Give thanks
Give thanks

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 4:23-5:16

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON "Salt, Light, and Saints"
Chapin Garner

SERMON RESPONSE
The Lord is My Shepherd, from "Requiem" John Rutter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

PRAYER RESPONSE
Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior Fanny Crosby

CALL TO OFFERING

Please pass the burgundy welcome books

OFFERTORY
Requiem Aeternam, from "Requiem" John Rutter

*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
Abide With Me William Monk/arr. Stephen DeCesare
Darren Anderson, tenor
Sanctus, from "Requiem" John Rutter

*HYMN #486 Verses 1, 2, & 5
For All the Saints — William W. How

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
Toccata in B minor — Eugene Gigout

*Congregation please stand.

The flowers today are given by Jennifer Essigs, John Hayes and family in loving memory of Martha Hayes.

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.

Thank you to the Heldt family for hosting our fellowship time this morning. Please join us for coffee in Smith Hall immediately following the service.

In Loving Memory

Kraig A. Bailey
Patricia L. Benjamin
Marcia Blaikie Blod
Mary Louise Mitchell Bolton
Peter Crisp
David Crystal II
Katharine Rebecca Gaylord
Ian Gibson
Gloria White Guernsey
Laura Hage
Martha Hayes
Meghan Hesketh
Mike Lake
Stanley Jones
John Anderson Luke, Jr.
Lucy Reiss Mullen
Charles Oscar Rose, Jr.
Kevin Scott Smith
William Elwood Steinman, Jr.
William G. Stoops
Charlotte Thompson
David Thompson
Paul E. Weaver
Barbara Wood
Raymond Zucco

NEWS OF THE CONGREGATION

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, November 2, 7:00-8:00am, Morning Bible Study, Library
Monday, November 2, 9:15-10:15am, Women's Bible Study, Library
Wednesday, November 4, 9:30-11:00am, Chapin's Bible Study, Library
Thursday, November 5, 8:30-9:30am, Faith & Mental Wellness, Library
Friday, November 6, 6:00-7:00am, Early Morning Men's Bible Study, Parlor
Friday, November 6, 8:00-9:00am, Merton & Friends, Zoom Only

CHAPEL SUNDAY

Today, we will offer a Chapel service for children through grade 3. Grades 4-7 will remain in the Meeting House for communion. Pick up in the classroom as usual, following the service.

CHURCH SCHOOL TURKEY BANKS FOR THANKSGIVING SERVICE PROJECT

Today, all children in church school will receive a turkey bank to collect funds in support of our Thanksgiving Service Project. We encourage children to engage in both acts of service and reach out to friends and family to fundraise. Please bring your turkey banks back to church on Sunday, November 15. Funds collected will go toward purchasing Thanksgiving meals for families in need, including a turkey stipend. We hope all will join us for the Thanksgiving Service Project in Church School and after church on Sunday, November 22.

Fall Family Harvest Dinner

Children and Family Ministries invite you to a Family Harvest Dinner on Sunday, November 8 from 4:30-6:00pm. We will share a meal together and participate in fall-themed activities, crafts, and games for children and their families. Join us for fellowship, food, and fun as we usher in the season of gratitude together. The cost of admission will be a food donation for Inspirica. Today is the last day to register. Email churchschool@godsacre.org with questions.

Midnight Breakfast Run Donations Needed

We're collecting items for our upcoming Midnight Run breakfast service project on November 14 with this year's Confirmation Class. Please donate winter coats, sweaters, and sweatshirts (L or XL, men's and women's), as well as new T-shirts, underwear (L or XL), and heavy socks. Donation bins will be in Smith Hall until November 13. Your donations are always greatly appreciated and will be most welcome during the upcoming winter.

Nativity Pageant – Sign Up Now!

We're excited to open signups for our beloved Nativity Pageant! This year, it will be presented **during the 10:00am service on Sunday, December 13**, allowing for more family time and less stress on Christmas Eve while keeping with our tradition of the 4:00pm Family Service. The Nativity Pageant is open to children ages 4-grade 7. Rehearsals will take place during Church School and Children's Choirs, with just three additional sessions outside of regular times. To sign up, scan the QR code or contact Greer Lyle at greer@godsacre.org for details.

November Plate Offering

This month's plate offering goes towards the Thanksgiving Service Project. Our partners include Grace Baptist Church, Macedonia Church, Carver Foundation, Person to Person, Mid Fairfield Aids Project, Open Doors, Pacific House, Pivot Ministries, Future 5, and Liberation Programs. Through these partnerships, we feed about 1,000 individuals a Thanksgiving meal.

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 andyparkin7@gmail.com for details on how to help.

SOUND BATH EXPERIENCE WITH STEPHANIE JOYCE

Join us for a Sound Bath led by Stephanie Joyce on Tuesday, November 17 at 9:00am in the Parlor. Close your eyes and become immersed in the soothing sounds of bowls, gongs, and chimes for a deeply relaxing, meditative experience. Spaces are limited. Please RSVP to Kim Hall at kimbhall@icloud.com by November 15.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE PROJECT - NOVEMBER 22

On Sunday, November 22, from 11:00am-12:30pm, our church will serve in one of its most beloved traditions, the Thanksgiving Service Project. We serve 140 families in neighboring towns in need. Come grab a box, decorate it, and fill it with delicious food for a family to enjoy a Thanksgiving Feast. Everyone in our church family is encouraged to participate in this all-church effort to feed our neighbors this Thanksgiving!

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 reach out to Hal Holappa at holappahal@aol.com or Teri Reed at treed04@gmail.com. We'd love to have you on the team!

WELCOME REVEREND SARAH DRUMMOND – NOVEMBER 15

On November 15, we are delighted to welcome Rev. Dr. Sarah Drummond, Founding Dean of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School, to the pulpit. Dr. Drummond has been a valued advisor to our Discernment Team and at 11:15am in the Chapel she will lead a church-wide conversation on the Congregational Way, offering insights into the history, values, and practices that have shaped our tradition and helping to ground us for the discernment work ahead. Members of the Discernment Team will be present to help foster the thoughtful discussion and shared learning that will guide us as we listen together for God's leading. All are welcome!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP INSPIRICA THANKSGIVING SERVICE DAY

Our church women are invited to serve at Inspirica on **Tuesday, November 10, from 9:30–11:30am**. As part of our beloved Thanksgiving Service tradition, we'll sort and box food for Harvest for Hope. Please check your email to RSVP. Contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org with any questions.

YOUTH THIS WEEK

Guppies and Spirit Singers will not meet this week. For more information, please contact Greer Lyle at greer@godsacre.org.

Sunday, November 1
YG, grades 9–12, Senior Takeover, 7:00–8:30pm

Monday, November 2
Cherub Choir, age 4–grade 1, 4:00–5:00pm
MSYG, grades 6–8, Lock-in, 8:00pm–8:00am Tuesday, November 3

Thursday, November 5
JYG, grades 4–5, God Knows Me, 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
Marianna Kilbride
Director of Spiritual Formation
Nerva Altino
Director of Music Ministries
Leigh Engen
AV Tech Leader
Steve Quinn
Deacon

USHERS

Lesley Cousley
Anne Gunter
Scott Gunter

DEACON OF THE MONTH

Alex Reinman

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.