WORSHIP SERVICE
NOVEMBER 8, 2026, 10:00AM
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE
Praise & Worship — Selections

*HYMN #S14 Verses 1, 2, & 4
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven — John Goss

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.

ANTHEM

The Battle of Jericho Spiritual/arr. Moses Hogan

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & SALUTE TO THE ARMED FORCES

Arr. Camp Kirkland

Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, Marines

Children ages PreK - Grade 5 recess to classrooms for Church School. Grades 6 & 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

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

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

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
Give thanks
Give thanks
Give thanks

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 25:1-13

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

SERMON "All You Need is Oil"
Marianna Kilbride

SERMON RESPONSE
Gratitude Brandon Lake
Hank Durfee, soloist

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
There is a Balm in Gilead Spiritual

CALL TO OFFERING

Please pass the burgundy welcome books

OFFERTORY
Hallelujah "from Mt of Olive" LV Beethoven

*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 #445
Be Thou My Vision Traditional

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
Battle Hymn of the Republic Julia W. Howe/arr. Nerva Altino

*Congregation please stand.

Thank you to the Hamilton and van Roden families 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

AMO MISSION TRIP: SIGN UP BY NOVEMBER 15

Sign-up for our AMO Mission Trip, February 28-March 6. 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 9, 7:00-8:00am, Morning Bible Study, Library
Monday, November 9, 9:15-10:15am, Women's Bible Study, Library
Wednesday, November 11, 9:30-11:00am, Chapin's Bible Study, Library
Friday, November 13, 8:00-9:00am, Merton & Friends, Zoom Only

CONGREGATIONAL WAY – NEXT SUNDAY, 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!

CHURCH SCHOOL TURKEY BANKS FOR THANKSGIVING SERVICE PROJECT

Remember to help your children find ways to serve others or earn money for their turkey banks to help fund the Thanksgiving meals for families in need. Please bring your turkey banks back to church next Sunday, November 15. We hope all will join us for the Thanksgiving Service Project in Church School and after church on Sunday, November 22.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP CHRISTMAS DINNER – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Men, join us at Waveny House from 6:00–9:00pm for an evening filled with good food, great company, and Christmas spirit. We'll start with fellowship time at 6:00pm, enjoy a hearty meal together at 7:00pm, and then enjoy some holiday cheer by caroling with our friends from Pivot. Cost: $75, with an optional $25 sponsorship for a Pivot guest. RSVP to Andy Parkin at andyparkin7@gmail.com with menu choice by December 4.

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.

PSGA Enrollment Now Open for 2027-2028

Admissions are underway for the Preschool on God's Acre 2027/2028 school year. Applications are on our website! For any further information, please call (203) 594-1265.

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!

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

Ladies, you're warmly invited to the home of Eileen Thomas from 6:00–9:00pm for an evening of Christmas cheer! Join us for delightful hors d'oeuvres, fellowship, and friendship as we celebrate the joy of the Christmas season together. We look forward to seeing you! Check your inbox for the invitation or contact Liz Keogh at lizfoxkeogh@gmail.com to learn more.

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

This week, we have our Nativity Pageant opening rehearsal (No Guppies or Spirit Singers). If you are in the pageant or interested, please prioritize this date. For more information, please contact Greer Lyle at greer@godsacre.org.

Sunday, November 8
Children's Choir, grades 2–5, 11:15-11:45am
MSYG, grades 6–8, MSYG Worship, 4:00-5:30pm
YG, grades 9–12, Team Reveal, 7:00–8:30pm

Monday, November 9
Minnows, age 5–grade 1, Thanksgiving Service Project, 4:00–5:00pm

Tuesday, November 10
Nativity Pageant Opening Rehearsal, 4:00–5:00pm

Thursday, November 12
JYG, grades 4–5, Movie Night, 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

USHERS

Hal Holappa
Penny Mardoian
James Swindell

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.