

The First Congregational Church
September 13, 2020
10:00 AM

Kent, CT

A Community of Faith, Service and Love

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #68 *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”*
Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by the flaming tongues above;
Praise his name I’m fixed upon it name of God’s redeeming love.

Here I raise to thee an altar hither by thy help I’ve come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger bought me with his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debt or daily I’m constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee;
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here’s my heart, O, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, you know our problems and our weaknesses even better than we ourselves. In your love and by your power help us in our confusion, and, in spite of our weakness, make us firm in faith; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI (#734)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen.*

SCRIPTURE

Romans 14:1-12

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgement on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgement on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

One man esteems one day as better than another, while another man esteems all days alike. Let every one be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. He also who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God; while he who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So each of us shall give account of himself to God.

SERMON

HYMN #695, *“As We Gather at Your Table”*
As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence; Let our heart and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
Teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love’s victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
Send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast

Where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.

There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
As we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

PASTORAL PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

Leader: It is indeed good, right and salutary always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise Father Almighty, through Jesus Christ your Son. For with your co-eternal Son and Holy Spirit, you are one God, one Lord, in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Being; and we celebrate the one and equal glory of you, O Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. And so we join with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven who proclaim your glory with their unending hymn . . .

O Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

COMMUNION PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ. Strengthen us in faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

HYMN #577

Sing a New Church

Summoned by the God who made us rich in our diversity

Gathered in the name of Jesus, richer still in unity:

Refrain: Let us bring the gifts that differ and in splendid, varied ways,
Sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise.

Radiant risen from the water; robed in holiness and light,
Male and female in God's image, male and female, God's delight

Refrain: Let us bring the gifts that differ and in splendid, varied ways,
Sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise.

Trust the goodness of creation; the Spirit strong within.
Dare to dream the vision promised sprung from seed of what has been.

Refrain: Let us bring the gifts that differ and in splendid, varied ways,
Sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise.

Bring the hopes of every nation; bring the art of every race.
Weave a song of peace and justice; let it sound through time and space.

Refrain: Let us bring the gifts that differ and in splendid, varied ways,
Sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise.

Draw together at one table all the human family;
Shape a circle ever wider and a people ever free.

Refrain: Let us bring the gifts that differ and in splendid, varied ways,
Sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ministers: Community of Faith

Pastor: The Rev. John David Heeckt

Organist: John Paul Zurlo

Soloist: Veralyn Davee

Video Team: Jennifer Moros and Bethany Keck

WE WELCOME ALL who are worshipping with us via the internet.

OFFERING

Please mail your offering in weekly/monthly

First Congregational Church

PO Box 306

Kent, CT 06757

Prayer List:

Doctors, Nurses, Hospital staff, prayers for PPE, treatments, vaccines, all those with COVID 19 and their families, Food service people, truck drivers, all those out of work, Barbie, Kris, Judy, Jim and Betsy, Sawyer, Ed's family, Erin's family, Don, Virginia, Dan, The Johnson family, The Scholl family, Bill, Jen & family, Dan, Judy, Catherine, Derek & Dana and family, Living Water Church, Lewis, Lisa, Judy's sister.

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