

The First Congregational Church

October 18, 2020

Kent, Connecticut

10:00 AM

A Community of Faith, Service and Love

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #136 *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the Saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns, around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Through the darkness hide thee,
Through the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All they works shall praise the name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

OPENING PRAYER

God of love, you know our frailties and failing. Give us grace to overcome them; keep us from those things that harm us; and guide us into the way of salvation; 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:

First Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus and Timothy,
To the Church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ: Grace to you and Peace.

We have always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lords Jesus Christ. For we know, brother and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in the word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction: just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lords, for in spite of persecution you received the word with hoy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

SERMON

HYMN #575 *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*

Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy's perfect deed;
We, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love your Spirit kindles still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness, dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving, your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid and peace we give,
That your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

PRAYER CONCERNS, 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.

OFFERING

Invitation

Doxology (#34)

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 #581

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Called as partners in Christ's Service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace,
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfil God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth.
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old.
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus, new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So, God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus, giving hope, and confidence, and peace.

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.

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, Bill, Jen &
family, Dan, Judy, Catherine, Derek & Dana and family, Living Water
Church, The Duncan Family, Lewis, Lisa, Judy's sister. Devin &
family, Joe, Fred and Family.

OFFERING

Please mail your offering in weekly/monthly

First Congregational Church
PO Box 306
Kent, CT 06757

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All children have the right to simply be children...

Denise Carter, early childhood education director, was well aware of a rather large need within the population served by Neighborhood Houses. Many of the families are low wage earners, 75% of them earn less than \$20,000 annually. Truthfully, some simply struggle to provide many of basic needs for their children.

To that end, she designed a program to meet the health and development needs of infants and toddlers. Thus, the “Baby Essentials” program was birthed. The main goal was to provide diapers and formula for all of the children enrolled at the early childhood education center for families who could not afford a consistent supply.

Denise met with interim director of development, Christine Krueger, and shared her desire and need for funding. Christine went in search of those sources. She applied wherever she felt the need of the program matched the granters requirements. Fortunately, she filled out an application for a NIN direct service grant and was awarded \$3,000 in 2019.

In 2020, it was reported back to us that 100% of babies ages six weeks to 12 months received milk they needed while attending the Center. 50% of those babies also received one canister of formula per month for home consumption. Lastly, 100% of babies/toddlers

ages six weeks to three years had diapers needed for Center and home use.

According to Christine, “thanks to the Neighbors in Need grant, our babies are dry and their tummies are full, and parents, who are already stressed financially, socially, and emotionally, have two less potential health issues with which to contend!”

Because of your generosity, direct service programs like that of Neighborhood Houses are grant funded, communities are strengthened, and neighbors experience love without judgment.

Please join us in supporting the 2020 Neighbors In
Need Special
Mission Offering. Thank you!