

**The First Congregational Church**

November 15, 2020

**Kent, Connecticut**

10:00 AM

*A Community of Faith, Service and Love*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #48

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Un-resting, un-hasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render, O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

OPENING PRAYER

**Righteous God, you are our merciful master, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you faithfully and fully, and prepare us for the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, we pray. 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:

*Matthew 25:14-30*

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at one and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received 5 talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me 5 talents; see, I have made 5 more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents, and see I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘you wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I do not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own interest. So take the talent from him, and it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

## SERMON

### HYMN #572

*God, Whose Giving Know No Ending*

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store:  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,  
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward that goals of Christ, your son:  
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;  
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace  
conferred;  
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the Gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving to you by loving all.

## 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 #569

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;  
crown you ancient Church's story, bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn you Christ, assail his ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have been bound us, free our hearts to work  
and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the loving of these days, for the living of these days.

Heal your children's warring madness, bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
Lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.

## 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, treatments, vaccines, all those with COVID 19 and their families, Food service people, truck drivers, all those out of work, Barbie, Judy, Jim and Betsy, Sawyer, Erin's family, Don, Virginia, Dan, Bill, Jen & family, Catherine, Living Water Church, The Duncan Family, Lewis, Lisa, Judy's sister. Devin & family, Joe, Eric and family, George, Erin.

**OFFERING**

Please mail your offering in weekly/monthly  
First Congregational Church  
PO Box 306  
Kent, CT 06757

Phone: 860-927-3335  
Website: [fccofkentct.org](http://fccofkentct.org)  
Minister: [fcckentminister@gmail.com](mailto:fcckentminister@gmail.com)  
Office: [fcckentoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fcckentoffice@gmail.com)

