

The First Congregational Church
May 2, 2021

Kent, Connecticut
10:00 AM

A Community of Faith, Service and Love

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember to join us for an outdoor cleanup day. Bring your gloves, buckets, rakes, ect. and help us to clean up the lawns. We will see you around 11:30 am.

HYMN #298

The Day of Resurrection

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad!
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
And, listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
His own "all hail" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth its song begin!
The world resound in triumph, and all that is there-in;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend:
For Christ the Lord has risen, our Joy that has no end.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, whom to truly know is everlasting life: Grant us to so perfectly know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, so that we my steadfastly follow in his steps, even as we pray in his name. 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

John 15:1-8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

SERMON

HYMN #90

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners

Jesus! What a Friend for sinners! Jesus! Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me, he, my Savior, makes me whole.
Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! What a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;
Tempted, tired and sometimes failing, he, my strength, my victory wins.
Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! What a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking, he, my comfort, helps my soul.
Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! What a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! What a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high,
Storms about me, night o'er takes me, he, my Pilot, hears my cry.
Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! What a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! I do now receive him, more than all in him I find,
He has granted me forgiveness, I, am his, and he is mine.
Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! What a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

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

The Sursum Corda

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. Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself as our light and our salvation. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore, we praise your name with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven who proclaim your glory with their unending hymn . . .

The Sanctus

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Communion Prayer

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer After Communion

All: We give you thanks, O Lord, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. Send us into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to love others as you have loved us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HYMN #118

Lord of the Dance

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.

At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you maybe,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would no dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fisherman, for James and John;
They came with me and the Dance went on.
Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you maybe,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,
The holy people said it was a shame;
They whipped and they stripped and they hung on me on high;
And they left me there on a cross to die.
Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you maybe,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance and I still go on.
Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you maybe,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

They cut me down and I lept up high,
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you maybe,
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ministers: Community of Faith
Pastor: The Rev. John David Heeckt
Organist: John Paul Zurlo
Soloist: Veralyn Davee
Video Team: Bethany Keck and Bill Dahl

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

OFFERING

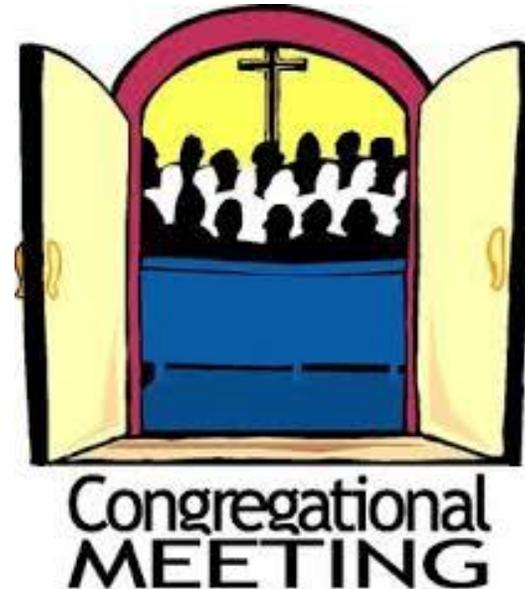
Please mail your offering in weekly/monthly
First Congregational Church
PO Box 306
Kent, CT 06757

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, Norm, Barbie, Liz, .

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It's Almost Spring Congregational Meeting Time!

Yes, its almost time again for that most sacred right of Congregationalism--the **Congregational Meeting!** And we'll be having our Spring Congregational Meeting in just a few weeks, on **Sunday, May 16 at 11:00!** The meeting will once again take place via Zoom, so check your email on the afternoon of the 15th for the Zoom link, and then just click on it on the 16th at 11:00 to join the meeting. And after the meeting is over, you can stick around because the 16th will also be **Online Fellowship Sunday!** And how convenient is that? You get to exercise your prerogative as church member and get to see your friends!

