

The First Congregational Church
September 5, 2021

Kent, Connecticut
10:00 AM

*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.*

A Community of Faith, Service and Love
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #2,

O Worship the King

O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love;
Our Shield and Defender the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form,
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.

OPENING PRAYER

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all of our hearts, for just as you always resist those who are proud in their conceit, so do you never forsake those who trust in your mercy. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI (#734)

SCRIPTURE

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

SERMON

HYMN #686,

What Does the Lord Require

What does the Lord require for praise and offering?

What sacrifice, desire or tribute bid you bring?

Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.

Rulers of earth, give ear! Should you not justice know?
Will God your pleading hear while crime and cruelty grow?
Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.

Still down the ages ring the prophet's stern commands:
To merchant, worker, king, he brings God's high commands:
Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.

How shall our life fulfill God's law so hard and high?
Let Christ endue our will with grace to fortify
Then justly, in mercy, we'll humbly walk with God.

PRAYER REQUESTS 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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, as we gather around your holy table and celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name . . .

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 #337

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name,
Two or three are met together you are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Giver, break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So no bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,
That by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We may serve with faith anew.

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

Deacon of the Month: Carol Kallstrom

Greeter: Lori Zidack

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, all those with COVID 19 and their families, Food service people, truck drivers, all those out of work, Scott, Barbie, Liz.

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