

The First Congregational Church

May 15, 2022

Kent, Connecticut

10:00 AM

A Community of Faith, Service and Love

Fourth Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne!

People: Jesus Christ, our King is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Leader: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King!

People: Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever!

Leader: Rejoice O Holy Church, Exult in Glory! The risen Savior shines upon you!

People: Let this place resound with joy, echoing the song of all God's people!

*HYMN #310

Thine is the Glory

This is the glory, risen conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angles in bright raiment rolled the stone away.
Kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth: death hath lost its sting.
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

No more doubt we thee, glorious Prince of life!

Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love.
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

*OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, you teach us that without love our actions gain us nothing. Fill us with your most excellent gift of love, so that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace. We pray this in Jesus' 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.*

CHILDREN'S TIME

SCRIPTURE:

Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

SERMON

*HYMN #21

This is my Father's World

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears

All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world, I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas his hand the wonders wrought.

This is our Father's world: O let us not forget
That though the wrong is great and strong, God is the ruler yet.
He trusts us with his world, to keep it clean and fair
All earth and trees, all skies and seas, all creatures everywhere.

This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.
This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let heaven ring! God reigns; let earth be glad!

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.*

*HYMN #569

God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
Crown your 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 your Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and
praise,
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living 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
Videographer: Bethany Keck
Deacon of the Month- Bethany Keck

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

Prayer List:

Doctors, Nurses, Hospital staff, all those with COVID 19 and their
families, Peggy, Scott, Barbie, Liz, Lewis, Ukraine, Our world leaders,
Bonnie Jo, Norman

Please mail your offering in weekly/monthly

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Reminder that the church is open for prayer thrice a week. If you would like to help run one of these sessions, please contact Bill Dahl or Barbara in the office.

Pastor John will be on vacation starting tomorrow through next Sunday. There will be no office hours the week of 5/16-5/20. John will be hosting Book Club on 5/18 @ 3pm, and Bible Study on 5/16 @ 7pm. Barbara will still be in the office and can get in touch with Pastor John as needed.