

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Gathered 1635

Member of the United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

Walton Place
Stamford, Connecticut 06901

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Music Sunday

June 28, 2015



*No matter who you are,
no matter where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome in this
United Church of Christ congregation.*

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MUSIC SUNDAY

June 28, 2015

10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Please turn off cell phones.

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PRELUDE

Prelude in C Major

Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we celebrate today with joy God's gift of music, and give special thanks for how it has enriched the worship of the church in diverse musical styles, here and in many places around the world. In this service we make our prayer in word, silence and song, as we seek God's blessing upon all who minister through music.

Today we also celebrate God's Rainbow Covenant. From the Hebrew Scriptures, we read: *This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living thing.* Following the precedent of our God in making a covenant with Earth and all creatures of Earth, we, as representatives of the Christian faith, hereby make our covenant with Earth and all of creation in its great diversity.

RINGING OF THE HOUR & LIGHTING THE CANDLE

INTROIT

When in Our Music God is Glorified

Words: Fred Pratt Green; Music: Timothy Alexandre Wallace

CALL TO WORSHIP

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always sing of your glory, Holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord: for at this time we celebrate your gift of music, through which earth and heaven combine.

At the creation of the world, the morning stars sang together, and the heavenly beings shouted for joy.

At the deliverance of your people from Egypt, Moses and Miriam sang of your salvation.

At the birth of your Son, Jesus, the angels sang 'Glory in the highest'. And so, with the saints and angels around your throne who offer you ceaseless songs of praise, we join to glorify your name, forever praising you and singing:

after John Donne (1571-1631)

(Music for congregational response: "*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*")

Leader: Praise be to you O God, who has awakened us to a new day of living, and who offers us that dawns with the light of your grace and love.

People (singing): Joyful, joyful, We adore thee, God of Glory, Lord of love, Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, opening to the sun above.

Leader: Praise be to you O God, who spins galaxies through the eons of time and space, who sets the evening sky ablaze with glory, who breathes life into the humblest worm and into us.

People (singing): All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.

Leader: Praise be to you O God, who emptied yourself to live as our Brother and Friend, whose heart know no barriers to compassion and mercy, whose holy purpose is to lift us into the fullness of joy and unity with you and all Creation.

People (singing): Thou our Father, Christ our Brother – all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

Leader: Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; break into singing and make music. *Psalm 98: 5*

HYMN

When in Our Music God is Glorified

Chalice #7

LITANY OF CONFESSION

God, forgive us. Our communion is not always visible to the world. Sometimes we allow threats to unity to enter the church, making it hard to see that we are your community. We act as though we do not need each other. We do not always love one another. We do not know and bear one another's burdens. We fail to build each other up. We do not always give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another. In this church community, too many times we do not accept that diversity is here and we do not welcome it. The rainbow colors are a statement that all are welcome in this church and at your communion table but we do not always live embracing the spirit behind these colors. Forgive us, and strengthen us so that we may live in the unity that you grant us and remember our diversity and accept and embrace diversity of the rainbow and of this local and church community.

GLORIA PATRI

Chalice #35

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.

MOMENT FOR VISION

Vision Song

Words: The congregation of The First Congregational Church of Stamford

Music: Timothy Alexandre Wallace

We aspire to be a community drawn together by God and inspired by Christ's courage, that lives by faith, practices radical compassion, affirms all God's children, embraces transformation of ourselves, our church, and the broader community and nurtures spiritual growth in ways that speak to a changing world.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Colossians 3:15-16

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

ANTHEM*How Can I Keep from Singing?*

Robert Lowry, arr. By Eric Nelson

*My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation. Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing; it finds an echo in my soul.**How can I keep from singing?**What though my joys and comforts die? My savior still is living.**What though the shadows gather 'round? A new song Christ is giving.**No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.**Since love commands both heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?**The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!**All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?***SCRIPTURE***1 Corinthians 12: 4-6*

New Testament

*"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.**There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.**There are different kinds of working but in all of them, and in everyone, it is the same God at work."**Many Gifts, One Spirit*

Chancel Choir

Words & Music: Allen Pote

*Many gifts, one spirit, many songs, once voice. Many reasons, one promise, many questions, one choice. O God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above. In our differences unite us in the circle of your love. O God, remind us we are not alone. Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne. Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand. We are members of one family, growing strong by joining hands. O God, remind us we are not alone. Though we move on different pathways, We are walking to your throne. Take our many ways of working, blend the colors of each soul into the beauty of a rainbow, Give us life, Lord, make us whole.***REFLECTION****HYMN***The Gift of Love*

Chalice #526

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE****THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Chalice #307

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom Come. The will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***INVITATION TO SHARE OFFERINGS***For the Beauty of the Earth*

John Rutter

*For the beauty of the earth, For the beauty of the skies, For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies, over and around us lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise This our joyful hymn of praise. For the beauty of each hour Of the day and of the night, Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light: Lord of all, to thee we raise This our hymn of praise. For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child, Friends on earth, and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild, For all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of This our joyful hymn of praise. For each perfect gift of thine To our race so freely given, Graces human and divine, Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n: Lord of all, to thee we raise This our joyful hymn of praise.***DOXOLOGY**

Chalice #46

*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***Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

Chalice #90

BENEDICTION*May the songs of the angels sustain you, may the praises of the saints inspire you, may the silent music of the Unseen Trinity be in your heart, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.***SUNG BENEDICTION***May the Road Rise to Meet You*

Traditional Irish

POSTLUDE*Variations on 'Now Thank We All Our God'**Variation III: Maestoso con moto*

Setting by Timothy Alexandre Wallace

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

June 28, 2015

Join us for hospitality in the Parlor (light refreshments and fellowship).

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Revive, our young adult discussion group, meets on the third Sunday of each month at noon in the West Parlor (room next to where coffee hour is held). Please join us for discussion about current events and reflection on that Sunday's scripture readings and sermon. To stay up to date on meeting times and locations, email rmgodzeno@gmail.com

Questions/Ideas for FCC? The Prudential Council is a group of church members that meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. to make important decisions about our church. The next meeting is July 8th. All members are welcome to join us to learn about what's happening at FCC and let us know your questions/thoughts/ideas for FCC. If you have feedback, but can't make the meeting, please feel free to get in touch with anyone who is on Prudential: Wendy Avirgan, Steve Ayres, Lisa Bauerle, Peter Birch, Anne Firmender, Susan Gibson, Bob Godzeno, Rob Godzeno, Jean Meyer, Linda Peters, Pam Shadford, and David Vintinner.

Vacation Reading. Our church library has lots of great books for summer reading. You can check out our books for 4 weeks, so remember to include a trip to the church library in your vacation preparation. You might also want to borrow our books for visiting grandchildren. Church Library Committee

We welcome Children to our worship! Children's bulletins and pencils available; if you prefer, childcare for infants – 5 year-olds available during worship in the upstairs nursery with caregivers, Elfriede Mallin and Margaret Simpson. An usher can direct you.

Want to be informed of the latest goings on at First Congregational?

Please, email fccstamford@gmail.com to join our church mailing list. Also, we do have an e-mail prayer chain. If you'd like to join this, please email us and request to be added to this list.

FCC is on Facebook! (We're at *First Congregational Church of Stamford*.)

Check out our Facebook page for up-to-date information on what is happening around here! While you're at it, check out our webpage (www.fccstamford.org) for information on our history and ministries.

Visit our Church Library, located across from the Parlor.

Keep us informed! If you are ill or hospitalized or have any concerns, please call the church office or let any of the Deacons know. We would like to include you in our prayers and visit you!

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Gathered 1635

Walton Place

Stamford, Connecticut 06901

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An Open and Affirming Congregation

Today	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 a.m.	Chapel Reserved
8:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:30 a.m.	Worship—Sanctuary
12:00 noon	Congregational Meeting
12:00 noon	Chapel reserved
Monday	
9:30 a.m.	Fusion Dance Class
Wednesday	
12:00 noon	Sanctuary Open for prayer and reflection (until 2:00 p.m.)
7:00 p.m.	Rainbow Café—Room 309
Thursday	
10:00 a.m.	Thrift Shop
Friday	Church building and office closed
Next Sunday	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 a.m.	Chapel Reserved
10:30 a.m.	Worship—Chapel
12:00 noon	Chapel reserved

Alcoholics Anonymous: Monday-Friday, 12 noon—Dining Room
Overeaters Anonymous: Monday-Friday, 12 noon—Room 309
Al-Anon: Wednesday and Fridays, 12 noon—Room 308
Anorexics and Bulimics Anonymous, Tuesdays, 12 noon—Room 308

The church building and office are open weekdays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Church Directory

Ministers—All the people
Interim Senior Pastor—Rev. Susan Gibson
Organist and Choir Director—Timothy Wallace
Administrative Assistant—Peggy Kittle
Phone: 203 323-0200; Fax: 203 348-2270
Website: www.fccstamford.org
Email: fccstamford@gmail.com