

**Twenty First Sunday After Pentecost**  
**October 13, 2024**

**Prelude**

Nenad Iovic

**Welcome**

Rev. Hiram Brett

**Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: How often have we imagined the ruler of glory far off? God is not in some remote heaven, but here.

**People: We wait in silence for God's appearing. Come, Holy One, to wipe away our tears.**

Leader: Stretch out your hands and open your hearts. Purify our lives from all deceit and falsehood.

**People: God reaches out to comfort and cleanse. We can sense God's hands of blessing resting on us.**

Leader: The earth and all things in it are God's. The world and all its people belong to God.

**People: We are God's people, called and saved by Christ. We are the saints who share in Christ's ministry.**

**Kids Church** Children are welcome to meet in the entrance area of the sanctuary for Kids Church in the Parish House.

Anna Haep &  
Nicole Giannetta

**\*Gathering Hymn** *God of Grace and God of Glory* #436 Black Hymnal (Verses 1, 2 & 5)

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.

From the evils that surround us and assail the Savior's ways,  
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts for faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore,  
Let the search for your salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.

**Unison Prayer of Invocation**

**Creator of all life, who could dare to stand before you were it not for your vindication of us? You are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end of all things. You take away our disgrace and restore us to wholeness. You swallow up death in the larger reality of life eternal. You grant hope for a new heaven and earth even in the midst of our present struggles. Surely you will bless us in this time of worship, unbinding us from our dull routines and freeing us to worship in spirit and in truth. Amen.**

**\*Passing the Peace**

**Stewardship Testimony**

Rebecca Costa

**Hymn of Praise** *I Come with Joy* #349 Black Hymnal (Verses 1, 2, 3 & 5)

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free, the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us,  
makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay, and go with joy to love the world  
and live that way we pray and live that way we pray.

**Old Testament** *Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4* (pg. 811 of your pew Bible)

Christian Corvino

**Psalms** *Psalms 119:137-144* (pg. 532 of your pew Bible)

### **Musical Interlude**

**Gospel** *Luke 19:1-10* (pg. 912 of your pew Bible)

**Sermon** *Salvation Has Come*

### **Choral Prayer**

**Here our prayer, O God, Here our prayer, O God,  
Incline your ear to us and grant us your peace. Amen.**

### **Call to Confession**

God alone deserves our trust and loyalty. Yet, we have not trusted, and our faithfulness is in question. This time of confession offers the opportunity to unburden our conscience, to experience forgiveness, and renew our covenant with the Eternal One.

### **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

**We have not kept faith with you, righteous God. There are so many distractions that occupy our time! There are so many groups that claim our loyalty. There are so many activities that bid for our attention. Even the church involves us in activities that keep us from matters of greater importance. In these moments, we seek to know you and be known by you, that in an honest exchange our relationship with you and the people around us might be strengthened. In your name, and joining with you, we seek for justice for the oppressed, food for the hungry, and healing for all. Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

We can count on God's active presence when all other hope is gone. Let us respond in gratitude to the One who deals kindly with us and whose will for us is love and joy and peace. Happy are those whose help and whose hope is in the one true God, who reigns for all generations and beyond time. Amen.

### **Service of Prayer**

Joys and Concerns / Prayers of the People  
Pastoral Prayer and Silent Prayer  
Lord's Prayer

### **Song of the Spirit** (please remain seated)

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me and use me, Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!**

### **Offering**

#### Call to Offering

As God wipes away our tears, we are called to be tissue-bearers to the world. When there is pain and suffering, the church has a healing mission. Where there is doubt and despair, we offer hope's embrace. Much of this ministry we offer personally, but our outreach is extended by the materials offerings we give. May this be a time of generous sharing.

Choir Anthem *O Lord, My God, You Are My Refuge* Arr. Hal Hopson

#### \*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;	(or) Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;	Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;	Praise God for all that love has done;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.	Praise Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

**\*Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

**The earth is yours, O God, and all that is in it. We have received untold blessings from your hand. You set before us the vision of a new heaven and a new earth, inviting us to share in its formation. May the love of Jesus be expressed to others by sharing of gifts, both person-to-person and through the investment of dollars to support the ministries of others. This offering of service and sacrifice is the high point of our worship. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn** *Blessed Be the Tie That Binds* #393 Black Hymnal

Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the sharing of a common life is like to that above.

Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,  
and often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,  
But we shall still be joined in heart and hope to meet again.

**Benediction**

Give us faith to walk in your path and power to stand the test of life. Allow your voice to call us back whenever we go astray. We leave in peace, knowing you will never leave nor forsake us. Amen.

**Threefold Amen**

**Postlude**

\*Please rise in body or in spirit

## **HURRICANE RELIEF**

Church Council and the Board of Christian Service are encouraging donations directed to hurricane relief efforts. These funds will be sent on to the United Church of Christ Disasters Ministries. The National UCC Ministries have a long history of supporting communities as they recover from disaster and their plight fades from the headlines. Together with the 570 Churches in the Southern New England Conference and the 4,603 Churches in the country, we can make a difference. Thank you for your support.

Checks can be made out to the church with "hurricane relief" in the memo.

If you have questions, call Jinny Schneider 203-393-3721.

# **We are on our way!!!**

Every step a new beginning,

Every path a new adventure,

What a road we have traveled,

What a journey we are on!

Thanks for staying with us, supporting us, joining us, worshipping with us, laughing with us, being patient with us, staying for coffee hour with us. And thanks for hoping, praying and believing in us.

The First Church of Christ, Woodbridge, is growing and changing. We have new people and new programs. We have innovations and renovations happening. Our older members have a new spring in their step. It feels good to be renewed and to look forward with eagerness to what is transpiring and improving. We're glad you're here. We hope you feel the spirit.

We are asking for your pledge for 2025. Pledges help us budget for the upcoming year. Please be as generous as you have always been. Or you can be more generous if you are inspired by our enthusiasm and commitment! All pledges are used to do good works and God's work. An excellent investment!

Return your pledge cards in the envelope provided or bring them to church on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Pledge Sunday, when we will dedicate all of our gifts. Thank you in advance, not just for your gifts but for the gift of you.

You are God's light shining!

Faithfully,

~The Stewardship Committee

