

# UNITED CHURCH ON THE GREEN

In the Heart of New Haven, open to all Seekers



An Open and Affirming Congregation of the  
United Church of Christ

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In a world where Christianity is too often associated with intolerance, exclusion, and hate, the mission of United Church on the Green is to proclaim Christ through faith, hope, and love. We are a community of many races, ethnic backgrounds, religious experiences, ages, sexual orientations, and gender identities. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you will have a home here at United Church on the Green.

July 13, 2025

10:00AM

Pentecost 5C

**We Gather as Church**

**PRELUDE**

*Sonata I in F Major*

Roberto Valentino

Vivace and Sarabanda (c. 1680—c. 1735)

Julia Blue Raspe and Susan Holahan, *alto recorders*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

Roger Adams

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Roger Adams

At God's table of justice, everyone has a place and none are turned away.

**Here strangers are welcomed as friends, the poor sit alongside the rich, and the upside-down kin-dom of God is revealed.**

At God's table of abundance, a banquet of righteousness and liberation is set for all.

**Here the powerless are heard; the outcast are showered with honor, and the inside-out kin-dom of God is revealed.**

At God's table of life, all peoples know peace and creation flourishes.


**Here the hopeless are nourished with possibility, the complacent are transformed into advocates for change. Here in our very midst the kin-dom of God is revealed.**

Amen

\*Please stand as you are able

**\*HYMN #10***Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

NICAEA



1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,  
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide thee,  
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee;  
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
though the sin - ful hu - man eye thy glo - ry may not see;  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;  
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
God ev - er - liv - ing, through e - ter - ni - ty.  
per - fect in power, in love, and pur - i - ty.  
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

\*Please stand as you are able

## **GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)**

Roger Adams

**We give thanks to you, Oh God, for you are good; for your steadfast love endures forever. You have redeemed us from trouble and gathered us in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. When we cry to you in trouble, you bring us out of our distress.**

**We thank you God for your steadfast love, for your wonderful works to humankind. We lift up your name here in the congregation of the people and praise you in the assembly of the elders. We worship you here, today, together. Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S GATHERING**

Colleen O'Connor

***All children are invited to come to the front for a brief time of greeting and prayer. Afterward, children are invited to join teacher Rebecca Baisden in the children's room, or children may stay with their parents.***

### **Children's Sermon and Sing-Along**

*if you promise to be welcoming  
then you are welcome here!  
if you keep an open heart  
an open mind and open ears!  
if you know that folks are different  
and it's nothing to fear  
then I promise you will always be  
welcome here!*

\*Please stand as you are able

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Roger Adams

**Gracious God, you tell us to love one another—to love others the way we so naturally love ourselves. Yet each of us must admit that we have failed to do so. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors even if they don't look like us, even if they don't think like us, even if they don't love like us, even if they don't pray like us, even if they don't speak like us, even if they don't vote like us. But we have failed to love one another with no exceptions.**

### ***Brief period of silence***

**Forgive us Holy One, and make us again in your image of Love. Blot out our sins, renew our minds, rekindle our hearts, and guide us by Your Holy Spirit into the Love that is your will. Amen.**

\*Please stand as you are able

# RESPONSE

## There's a Spirit of Love in This Place

MEDEMA



1. There's a spir - it of love in this place, there's a  
(2. There's the) pres - ence of peace in this room, there's the



spir - it of love in this place. You can't  
pres - ence of peace in this room. In God's



see it, but it's there just as pre-cious as the air. There's a  
ten-der-ness is found peace that pass - es hu-man bounds. There's the



spir - it of love in this place. O al - le -  
pres - ence of peace in this room.



lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! We bless your ho - ly



name. O al - le - lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! There's a



spir - it of love in this place. 2. There's the place.

\*Please stand as you are able

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Roger Adams

One: Sisters and brothers in Christ, God's Spirit did not leave us after that first Pentecost. The Spirit is still with us, empowering us to know mercy and grace, forgiveness and service. In this Spirit, and through Christ, we proclaim the Good News:

**All: We are forgiven Alleluia! Amen.**

## **We Listen for God's Word**

### **SCRIPTURE**

*Psalm 82*

Music Director Caesar Storlazzi

<sup>1</sup> God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: <sup>2</sup> "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah <sup>3</sup> Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. <sup>4</sup> Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." <sup>5</sup> They have neither knowledge nor understanding; they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. <sup>6</sup> I say, "You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you; <sup>7</sup> nevertheless, you shall die like mortals and fall like any prince." <sup>8</sup> Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations belong to you!

\*Please stand as you are able

**\*HYMN #364**    *This Little Light of Mine*

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

1. This lit-tle light of mine, (of mine) I'm gon-na let it shine; (Oh \_\_\_)

(of mine) (Oh \_\_\_)

This lit-tle light of mine, (of mine) I'm gon-na let it shine; (Oh \_\_\_)

This lit-tle light of mine, (of mine) I'm gon-na let it shine;

(of mine)

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (oh, let it shine.)

st. 1-4

2. This great joy I have, I'm gon-na let it shine . . .
3. Ev-'ry-where I go I'm gon-na let it shine . . .
4. All- through the night I'm gon-na let it shine . . .
5. repeat st. 1

\*Please stand as you are able

## SERMON

Roger Adams

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Carolyn Streets

The Lord be with you... **And also with you...** Let us pray...

**We join our voices to pray, rejoice and celebrate the good things of our life together and those who are celebrating their birthdays, including Kathryn Thomas, Jeff Creevy, Mary Taylor, Al Forino, Candy Thomas and Office Administrator Nicole René Atchison**

**We pray for ourselves and our kin that the light of God's love will shine on us all, particularly our trans siblings, our kin of color and women in these times of persecution.**

**We pray for the innocent who suffer the world over because of war.**

**We pray for migrants, refugees, and the disappeared in these days of wickedness.**

**We pray for our world suffering the ravages of Climate Change.**

**We pray for nations across the globe that justice and peace might rule.**

**We pray for the wisdom and courage of those with plenty, that they might help make a better world for all.**

**We pray for the teachers, parents, and school staffs that this year learning and joy will reign, free from the threat of violence.**

**We pray for those suffering the plague of gun violence with special prayers for the children killed and wounded here in New Haven these past weeks.**

**We pray for those challenged by physical and mental illness and for us who love them.**

**We pray for those suffering grief and loss in the passing of loved ones. For ourselves, that we may ever live in the power of Hope.**

\*Please stand as you are able

## **SILENT PRAYER**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

And so, we pray with the words you taught us to pray:

**Our Father/Mother/God/Creator, 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.**

\*Please stand as you are able

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Carolyn Streets

*We invite you to greet one another with signs of peace*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Abram Guerra

**CALL TO OFFERING**

Abram Guerra

**OFFERTORY**

*Canon*

Leopold Mozart  
(1719-1787)

Julia Blue Raspe and Susan Holahan, *alto recorders*

\*Please stand as you are able

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God, thank you, thank you, thank you – for your grace, for this community of faith, for the gifts of our lives. Bless these offerings today that they might be used to further your reign of righteousness here and now. Work through each of us and through the ministries of this congregation that we might glorify you in all we do. Amen.**


**\*Please stand as you are able**

## We Are Sent Out


\*HYMN #529

*Let All Things Now Living*


ASH GROVE




1. Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2. By law God en - forc - es. The stars in their cours - es, the



God our cre - a - tor tri - um-phantly raise; who fash-ioned and  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient-ly shine; the hills and the



made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us by guid - ing us on to the  
moun-tains, the riv - ers and foun-tains, the depths of the o - cean pro -



end of our days. God's ban - ners are o'er us, pure  
claim God di - vine. We, too, should be voic - ing our

\*Please stand as you are able

light goes be - fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing  
love and re - joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a

forth in the night: till shad - ows have van - ished, all fear - ful - ness  
song let us raise till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks -

ban - ished, as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
giv - ing: "To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

\*Please stand as you are able

## COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Carolyn Streets

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,  
**so that we may seek truth boldly and love deep within our hearts.**

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,  
**so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.**

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation, and war,  
**so that you may reach out our hand to comfort them.**

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world,  
**so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.**

***Amen, Ameen, and Ashe!***

## POSTLUDE

*Sonata I in F Major*  
*Gavotta and Giga*

Roberto Valentino

Julia Blue Raspe and Susan Holahan, *alto recorders*

**Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!**

Please join us at Coffee Hour after Worship  
<https://unitednewhaven.org/this-weeks-worship>

Scan the QR Code to Sign Up for our Weekly Newsletter



### **THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.
Summer Intern	Carolyn Streets
Director of Music	Caesar Storlazzi
Guest Musicians	Julia Blue Raspe and Susan Holahan, <i>alto recorders</i>
Digital Deacons	Worship & Music Ministry Team
Coffee Hour Hosts	June + Dale Richards George C. Lindsay
Head Sexton	William Henton

### **THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH**

**July 13th:** 10:00AM Sunday Worship- Meeting House and Online  
**July 15th:** 12Noon Staff Meeting - Online  
**July 17th:** 6:00PM Bible Study – Online  
**July 19th:** 5:00PM Youth Pride Prom – Parish House

### **CHURCH NOTES**

#### **Musical Permissions**

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### **MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION**

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse

WiFi Password: 2037874195

The flowers today were donated by Susan Holahan  
in loving memory of her sister, Ludy Nattrass.

### **SUMMER SERVICES AT UNITED**

During the Summer, we will have Sunday Worship downstairs in our Air Conditioned Bradley Room. We will continue in the Bradley Room until the Fall.

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE CONVERSATION with SUMMER INTERN CAROLYN STREETS**

Our summer intern, Carolyn Streets will be hosting a table conversation each Sunday after service. Members are invited to come and share their perspective of the church and social justice issues.

### **FLORAL DEDICATIONS AT UNITED CHURCH**

Would you like to remember or honor a friend or family member with Flowers? The Sacred Spaces Committee would like you to know that you don't have to wait until Easter or Christmas - Any Sunday is available!

The Committee has been placing fresh floral arrangement in the Narthex every Sunday. We would like to open this opportunity to our church members and friends. You can bring the floral arrangements yourself, or provide a monetary donation. Suggested donation is \$40. Use a Flower Dedication Form, a Flower Offering Envelope or pay online <https://unitednewhaven.org/donate>

### **NEW ALL-CHURCH CALENDAR**

We are in the process of creating an All Church Calendar for parishioners, visitors and renters. We want everyone to be kept abreast of the schedule and location of our church events. Ideally, this calendar will be available via a link on our website and in our eBlast. Please submit your meeting calendar for the second half of 2025 to [office@unitednewhaven.org](mailto:office@unitednewhaven.org)

To that end, two dates you should save now are:

**Saturday, September 13th – Church Picnic** at Hammonasset in Madison

**Saturday, October 18th – Congregational Retreat** at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Hamden. More information to follow.

**At United Church on the Green, we seek to Do Justice, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly with God, following the footsteps of Jesus.** We are also a Progressive Protestant Christian Church, a member of the Nationwide United Church of Christ (UCC).

**We have a long history.**

- Established 1742. Meetinghouse was built in 1815.
- The Amistad Incident? Abolition of slavery? The 1970 Black Panther trials? Divestment in South Africa? United was there.

**We believe God is still speaking to the world today... and we're trying to listen.**

- Not a "The Bible says it. I believe it. That settles it." kind of church. Questions encouraged. (Actually, they're necessary.)
- "Open and Affirming" of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people since 1989.

**We are working with God to build a better future.**

- Not interested in "saving souls" or "converting the heathen." God's love is for all.
- Trying to "connect the dots" to grow peace, justice, and compassion in the world.

#### **Staff Contacts**

**Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.,** *senior pastor*

**Caesar Storlazzi,** *director of music*

**Maxim Schmidt,** *digital media administrator*

**Nicole René Atchison,** *church administrator*

**Nancy Lupi,** *financial secretary*

**Jack Russell,** *director of operations*

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**Rev. Louise B. Higginbotham,** *minister emerita*

**Rev. Dr. Bonnie Scott,** *minister emerita*

**United Church on the Green, UCC**

**Meeting House,** *corner of Temple & Elm*

**Parish House office,** *corner of Temple & Wall*

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