

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



We Gather as Church

If you are new to United, or feeling new, we'd love to keep in touch with you. If you wish, please share your contact information and prayer requests at <http://unitednewhaven.org/connect-with-us>.

PRELUDE *Three Short Pieces* Florence B. Price (1887-1953)
Adoration, In Quiet Mood, A Pleasant Thought

WORDS OF WELCOME

Peace be with you... **And also with you...**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather in this place to worship our God:

Many: Calm Presence in our times of confusion, Comforter in our nights of struggle.

One: We gather with fellow pilgrims, as we seek to follow Jesus:

Many: Friend to those swamped by fears, Family to all overwhelmed by loss.

One: We are brought together by the Spirit who lives in the depths of our souls:

Many: The Serenity who travels with us on this up-and-down journey we call life.

GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

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.

***HYMN #230** *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song* BRIDEGROOM

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

They can be such giants in our lives, God of Grace. Each day, our fears, our doubts, our worries wash over us, until we come to believe that you do not care for us. There seems to be so much wrong in the world, we are convinced that there is nothing good we can do. The storms of sin and temptation batter at us, and we cower, unable to find the faith to withstand them.

Forgive us, God of Hope. Remind us that if we but open our hearts, you will heal us. If we but listen to your words, we will hear peace and joy. If we but open our lives to you, we can go forth to serve all humanity, even as we have been served by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

SILENT PRAYER

HYMN

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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: With calming words, with a peaceful Spirit, with overflowing love and hope, our God forgives us and fills us with faith.

Many: Our God affirms us for who we are— those whose brokenness is made whole, whose sin is forgiven, whose lives overflow with faith. Thanks be to God! Amen.

We Listen for God's Word

SCRIPTURE

Mark 4:35-41

Benjamin Gyadu

***PSALM 104**

Lord, Send Out Your Spirit C. Alexander Peloquin

Refrain sung by the Congregation:

Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!

Verses sung by the Choir:

O bless the Lord, O my soul!
O Lord, my God, you are great indeed!
How manifold are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your creatures. Refrain

If you take away their breath
they perish and return to their dust.
When you send forth your Spirit,
They are created, and you renew the face of the earth. Refrain

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
May the Lord be glad in the Lord's works!
Pleasing to God be my theme;
I will be glad in the Lord. Refrain

Lord, send out your Spir-it, and re-new the face of the
earth. Lord, send out your Spir - it, and re -
new the face of the earth, and re -
To Verses
new the face of the earth.
After last refrain
Lord, send out your Spir-it, and re - new the face of the
earth. A - men.

REFLECTION

“Through the Storm”

RevKev

ANTHEM

All That I Am

William Grant Still

All that I am, all I ever can be
I owe to You, Lord, for You have molded me.
All that I have, all that I call mine
I owe to You, Lord, for all things are Thine.

You are the source of light: Light that’s offered to all
In Your wisdom You give to us our due.
You are the source of love: Love that binds in unity
In Your love and mercy I find lasting peace.

All that I love, all that’s dear to me,
All of my blessings come, my Lord, from Thee
All that I own, all that belongs to me,
All I surrender, my Lord, to Thee

We Respond

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

For those celebrating birthdays in the month of June, including Don Bertrand, Jane Jervis, Glenn Duke + Pat Wiener

Shawn Gregory as he battles the final stages of cancer. And for his wife Jennifer and young children who must struggle through this test.

For Peace

For those who suffer with mental illness

For those who suffer with physical + emotional pain.

For physical safety and fact-based education in our schools

For immigrants and refugees everywhere seeking sanctuary and safe harbor.

Those feeling the physical, psychological and emotional effects of COVID19, Gun Violence and RSV

For the presence and guidance of God through this time of pastoral transition.

For Prayer Requests, please contact the Pastor at pastor@unitednewhaven.org or 203-787-4195 x104

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Hear us now as we combine our energy to pray using the words Jesus taught us...

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.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Peace be with you... *And also with you...*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO OFFERING

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY *I Will Not Leave You Comfortless* Everett Titcomb

I will not leave you comfortless,
I will come to you yet again: Alleluia.
And your heart shall be joyful: Alleluia.

*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.

In anxious times like these, the work and word of the church is all the more important. Please help United continue to offer life-giving ministry by giving online through our secure website at www.unitednewhaven.org/donate, or use the QR Code on the back cover of the Bulletin. Thank you for your generosity!

FAREWELL LITURGY

LEADER

Our church family is constantly changing.

People come and go.

Babies are born.

Children grow up - and move away.

People commit themselves to one another.

Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives.

Individuals move into our community and church life.

Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities

PEOPLE

It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings, and of beginnings.

Today we share the time of farewell with a friend who is stepping down from his current role in the life of this congregation.

LEADER

On November 28, 2021, we called Kevin Ewing to serve as Interim Minister at United Church on the Green. Today we gather to thank him for leading us during the past 18 months.

REV KEV

I thank United Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me during our time together.

I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.

I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted.

As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

PEOPLE

We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to follow God's call in your life elsewhere.

We express our gratitude for your time among us.

We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes.

Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

REV KEV

I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

LEADER

I ask the congregation to please stand as you are able.

Do you, the members and friends of United Church on the Green, release Kevin Ewing from the duties of Interim Minister?

PEOPLE

We do, with the help of God.

LEADER

Do you offer your encouragement for his ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

PEOPLE

We do, with the help of God.

LEADER

Do you, Kevin Ewing, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

REV KEV

I do, with the help of God.

LEADER

Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here, and on the relationship with another who comes to serve?

REV KEV

I do, with the help of God.

LEADER

Let us pray:

O God, we give thanks for remembered time when we, together, have shared the life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Kevin Ewing in worship, in learning, in service. We pray that Kevin will be aware of your Spirit's guidance in the future, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior.

ALL

God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

LEADER

Go now, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We Are Sent Out

***HYMN #439**

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

PENTECOST

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Emma Lou Diemer
(b. 1927)

Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!

Please join us at Coffee Hour after Worship

<https://unitednewhaven.org/this-weeks-worship>

Today's Music

In recognition of RevKev's time with us, we have changed the sung response after our confession to a piece by Mark Miller (of the Yale Institute of Sacred Music). "There's a Spirit of Love in this Place" not only describes what United Church on the Green strives to be, but also what RevKev's ministry has shown: it's all about the Love. (Well, it's all about the Covenant too, but I leave that to folks with Divinity degrees to discuss.) We will continue with this response when Rev. Ray joins us on June 4th and throughout the summer.

C. Alexander Peloquin was a leading music figure in the Catholic Church after Vatican II. He embraced the liturgy in English and wrote many psalms and mass settings which involved the congregation (called the "Assembly" in those days). The Psalm sung today is in a responsorial form, with the congregation singing a refrain and the choir presenting the verses. This piece, from 1971, was startling and new, with its dissonances, tritones (the *diabolus in musica/devil in the music*), and the cluster chords at the very end. This Pentecost psalm is a dazzling musical description of the fire of the Spirit.

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Interim Minister	Rev. Kevin Ewing
Director of Music	Caesar Storlazzi
United Church Choir	
Digital Media Administrator	Lizzy Stant
Digital Deacons	Worship & Music Ministry Team
Coffee Hour Hosts	Dale Richards June Richards
Head Sexton	William Henton
Sexton	Raymond O'Connor

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

May 28th: 10:00AM Worship at United Church – Hybrid

May 29th: **MEMORIAL DAY**

Jun 1st: 12Noon United Staff Meeting w/ Rev Ray

Jun 2nd: 4:00 Bible Study – Online

6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen – Take Out Only

Jun 3rd: 9:00AM UCG Yard Birds – Parish House

6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen – Take Out Only

CHURCH NOTES

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MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse

WiFi Password: 2037874195

Sharing our Gifts for a New Beginning

We are very excited about what lies ahead for us at United Church on the Green. We are continuing our work against injustice and living out the good news of Jesus' love. How exciting for us to be embarking on this new beginning working together with our new pastor!

Please prayerfully consider making a financial contribution to the work and ministry of United Church through making a pledge. No amount is too small. We would love to have every one of our church family and friends participate.

To make a secure pledge, go to: www.unitednewhaven.org/donate

The Yard Birds are Back!

Join the YardBirds for a few hours of landscaping/gardening. Help make our Parish House a more inviting and welcoming and beautiful space. No special skills needed.

UCG PARISH HOUSE

323 Temple Street (corner of Wall St)

New Haven, CT 06511

Saturday June 3, 2023

9:00 a.m.-?

RSVP to: moderator@unitednewhaven.org

Staff Contacts

Kevin G. Ewing, *interim minister*

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Nancy Lupi, *financial secretary*

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Jack Russell, *director of operations*

operations@unitednewhaven.org

Rev. Louise B. Higginbotham, *minister emerita*

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Scott, *minister emerita*

At United Church on the Green, we seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, following in 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.

United Church on the Green, UCC
meeting house, corner of Temple & Elm
parish house office, corner of Temple & Wall
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