

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

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.

September 15, 2024

10:00AM

Pentecost 17B

We Gather as Church

PRELUDE

Concerto for Two Oboes, op. 9/3

Tomaso Albinoni

Olav van Hezewijk and Marta Boratgis, *oboes*

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

ONE: Maker of All. Parent of All. Destiny of All.

ALL: We lift our voice to you in praise and adoration. To give thanks that You are with us in love and care, we lift our hands and hearts to you.

ONE: Source of our hope and courage we give thanks for your Spirit and welcome you into this place and into our hearts.

ALL: We lift our voice to you in praise and adoration. To give thanks that You are with us in love and care, we lift our hands and hearts to you.

One: Consecrator of us all as your wondrous creations, we open our hearts and our minds to the glorious future into which you call all of your children and all of creation.

ALL: We lift our voice to you in praise and adoration. To give thanks that You are with us in love and care, we lift our hands and hearts to you.

ONE: May this people and this place shine with your abundant love.

ALL: Come Blessed One, Come. Amen.

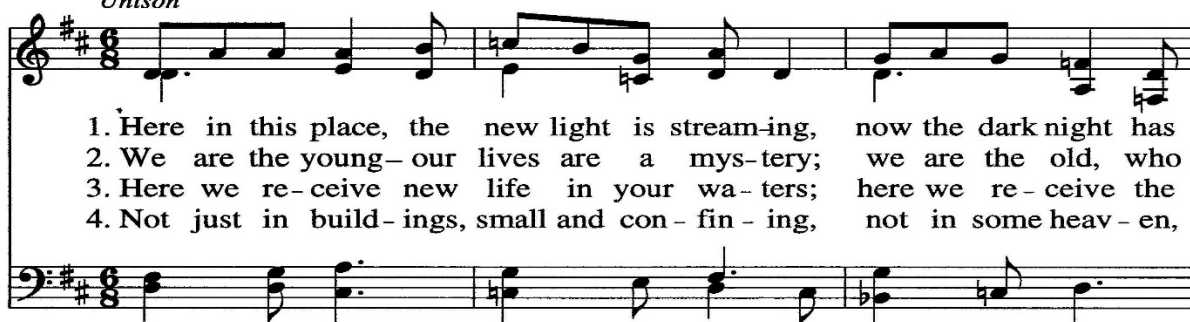
*Please stand as you are able

***HYMN #250**

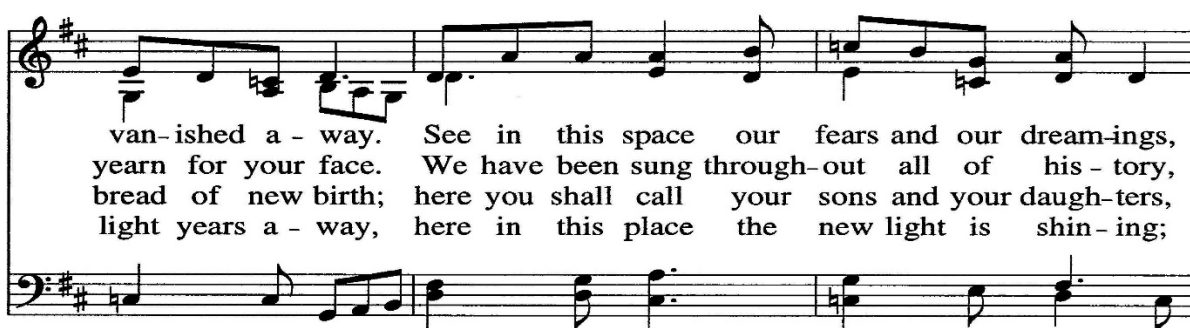
Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

Unison



1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, now the dark night has
2. We are the young—our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
3. Here we re-ceive new life in your wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

*Please stand as you are able

Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; our
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and

spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to - geth-er,

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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.

*Please stand as you are able

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

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 Sing-Along

Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
For the Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
As He loved so long ago,
Taking children on His knee,
Saying, "Let them come to Me."

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**Please stand as you are able*

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.

HYMN 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

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

Matthew 26: 6-13

Nicole René Atchison

⁶ Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. ⁸ But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? ⁹ For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum and the money given to the poor." ¹⁰ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. ¹¹ For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. ¹³ Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

*Please stand as you are able

***HYMN #609**

Guide My Feet

African American Spiritual

The musical score for 'Guide My Feet' is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Guide my feet
2. Hold my hand
3. Stand by me
4. I'm Your child
5. Search my heart
6. Guide my feet

while I run this race,
yes, my Lord!

guide my feet
hold my hand
stand by me
I'm Your child
search my heart
guide my feet

while I run this race,
yes, my Lord!

guide my feet
hold my hand
stand by me
I'm Your child
search my heart
guide my feet

while I run this race, for I
don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

"A Place of Hope"

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

This Place

Kem

*Please stand as you are able

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

We join our voices to pray and rejoice to celebrate the good things of our life together and those who are celebrating their birthdays this week, including Joan Duffy + Carlos Sanchez

We celebrate the life of prolific EGOT performer, James Earl Jones. We pray for his family, friends and fans.

We celebrate the life of musician Frankie Beverly. May his memory and his music be a blessing.

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

We pray for our kin who suffering systems of cruelty and oppression particularly, our queer and trans siblings persecuted in this nation and in many lands across the world

We pray for those suffering the ravages of Climate Change

We pray for immigrants and refugees being demonized, whose only crime is wanting a future for themselves and their children

We pray for our nation, that we might yet recognize the dignity and worth of all God's creation

We pray for the teachers, parents, and school staffs that this might be a year of learning and joy 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 we 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***

SILENT PRAYER

*Please stand as you are able

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We invite you to greet one another with signs of peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this,
And let it be heard, Alleluia!

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
The Lord hath delivered all people, Alleluia!
O be joyful in God, all ye lands,
O sing praises to the honor of God's name,
Make all praise to be glorious.

***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.**

*Please stand as you are able

***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 #411

We Would Be Building

FINLANDIA

1. We would be build - ing; tem - ples still un - done
2. Teach us to build; up - on the sol - id rock
3. O keep us build - ing, Sav - ior; may our hands

o'er crum - bling walls their cross - es scarce - ly lift,
we set the dream that hard - ens in - to deed,
ne'er fal - ter when the dream is in our hearts,

wait - ing till love can raise the bro - ken stone,
ribbed with the steel, both time and change to mock,
when to our ears there come di - vine com - mands

and hearts cre - a - tive bridge the hu - man rift.
the un - fail - ing pur - pose of our no - blest creed.
and all the pride of sin - ful will de - parts.

We would be build - ing, Ar - chi - tect Di - vine,
Teach us to build; O Mak - er, lend us sight
We build with you; O grant en - dur - ing worth

re - veal the shape of life in your de - sign.
to see the tow - ers gleam - ing in the light.
un - til your prom - ised realm shall come on earth.

*Please stand as you are able

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

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 your heart.

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 your 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

Trio Sonata

G. F. Handel

Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!

Please join us at Coffee Hour after Worship

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

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>.

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.
Director of Music	Caesar Storlazzi
UCG Choir:	Judith Carlson, Trevor Fanning, Julia Blue Raspe, Daniel Rausch, Connor Reese, Jean Welty, Hayley Zemaitis
Guest Musicians	Olav van Hezewijk and Marta Boratgis, <i>oboes</i>
Digital Deacons	Worship & Music Ministry Team
Coffee Hour Hosts	June + Dale Richards George C. Lindsay
Head Sexton	William Henton
Sexton	Raymond O'Connor

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

Sept 15th: 10:00AM Homecoming Sunday-Meeting House and Online
Sept 17th: 7:00PM Faith Engagement and Fellowship Meeting - Online
Sept 18th: 1:00PM United Staff Meeting – Online
7:00PM Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting – Online
Sept 19th: 6:00PM Bible Study – Online
Sept 20th: 6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen – Take Out Only
Sept 21st: 6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen – Take Out Only

CHURCH NOTES

Musical Permissions

CCLI: 11242315, One License: A-736676

CCS WorshipCast: 22251728 All rights reserved.

MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse

WiFi Password: 2037874195

GATHERING SUNDAY

September 15, 2024

Gathering Sunday is here! This will be a special day in the life of United Church on the Green. We are celebrating the beginning of the church year and return of worship service to the Sanctuary after a major summer renovation. Following worship, we will have the opportunity to enjoy each other's company and a wonderful coffee hour filled with great food and treats and Ice Cream Sundaes!

Let join and celebrate the new things which God is doing in our midst.

United Church Congregational Retreat
The Westport Library
<https://westportlibrary.org>
Saturday September 28th 2024
Beginning at 9:00AM

We will be having our Congregational Retreat at The Westport Library, 20 Jesup Road (off the Post Rd) Westport CT 06880.

Be prepared to discuss the future of United Church with your church family during this all-day event. Lunch will be provided.

Directions from the Church:

195S Exit 18, Continue on Sherwood Island Connector, Left on the Post Rd, Left on Imperial, Right on Jesup

We are organizing carpooling for anyone who may need it. Please let us know if you need a ride, or if you have room in your vehicle to transport other members. There will be a sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour, or use our Google Form at: <https://forms.gle/etbPynzaacSL3V5AA>

Contact Moderator Abram Guerra for more information.

Thinking of Joining our Choir?

There are many ways to participate in worship: by reading the scripture, praying aloud and silently, singing the hymns in the congregation, and being attentive and engaged with the sermon. Now, if you love to sing, you can bring your musical participation up to the next level by joining our choir. We are a close-knit group of people who love to sing. We get together once a week for rehearsals (on Thursdays at 7pm) and we come to church a little early on Sundays to warm up and prepare for the service. While we do meet every week, we can work around your schedule, and weekly attendance is not required. We sing music in varying styles: old, new, gospel, contemporary, classical, Baroque, and so on. We have a paid core quartet of singers to form the backbone of our choir; they assist the volunteers and provide solos when appropriate. If you are interested in learning more about membership in the choir, contact Caesar Storlazzi, our music director, at Caesar.storlazzi@yale.edu or by text/phone call at 203-988-4609. Or, talk to any choir member at coffee hour. We look forward to having your voice join us in the choir!!



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

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