



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 12, 2017

8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Y O U H A V E
H E A R D I T S A I D . . .
B U T I S A Y T O Y O U .

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 12, 2017

8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Children are always welcome at our worship services.

A drop-off Nursery is available to children age 2 and younger,
in the Nursery School wing starting at 9:45 a.m.

**Those who are able are invited to stand.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dale Rosenberger, Senior Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

*HYMN

“GLORIOUS THINGS OF THEE ARE SPOKEN”

1. Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken,
2. See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters,
3. Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering,

Zi - on, cit - y of our God; God, whose word can
spring - ing from e - ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy
see the cloud and fire ap - pear for a glo - ry

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken". It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the fourth line, which is split into two parts. The third system contains the fifth line, also split into two parts.

(cont'd)

GLORIOUS THINGS OF THEE ARE SPOKEN (cont'd)



not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode
sons and daugh - ters, and all fear of want re - move
and a cov - ering, show - ing forth that God is near!



On the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy
Who can faint, while such a riv - er ev - er flows their
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and



sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -
thirst to as - suage? Grace, which like our God, the
shade by day, safe they feed up - on the



round - ed, thou may - est smile at all thy foes.
Giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.
man - na which God gives them when they pray.



***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Glad are all those who whole-heartedly seek God,
hearing what he claims makes us all most human.

**We gather to better see what God expects of us.
His ideas on who we are startle and surprise us.**

So ready yourselves to receive the help God gives us.
Attune your heart to the wisdom of seeking God's way.

**We already grasp that God's ways are not our ways,
and we expect God's challenge and encouragement.**

Of all the choices God gives us, some lead to life, others to death.
We can obey or reject God, of course; but we can't alter life's terms.

**We seek to know and enter into the ways that lead to life.
We engage a dialogue between God's promises and ours.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

Mr. Gary M. Morello, Associate Minister

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, 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 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.

***GLORIA PATRI**



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; As it was in the be-
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND DISMISSAL (10:00 only)

MISSION MOMENT

Jeannette Archer-Simons
Open Door Shelter

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT READING

DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20

Marianne Lauer, Deacon (8:30)

Mandy Teare, Deacon (10:00)

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

*HYMN

“SEEK YE FIRST”

Descant D F#m G D G

Al - - - le - - - lu - - - ia, Al-

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and God's
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and

(cont'd)

SEEK YE FIRST (cont'd)

D Em7 A7sus D F#m

le - - - lu - ia, Al - - - le-

righteous - ness, and all these things shall be
 ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

G D G Em D

lu - - - ia, Al - - - le - - - lu - ia!

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 5:21-30

Rev. Rosenberger

‘You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.” But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, “You fool”, you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

SERMON

“JESUS RAISES THE BAR ON BEING HUMAN”

Rev. Rosenberger

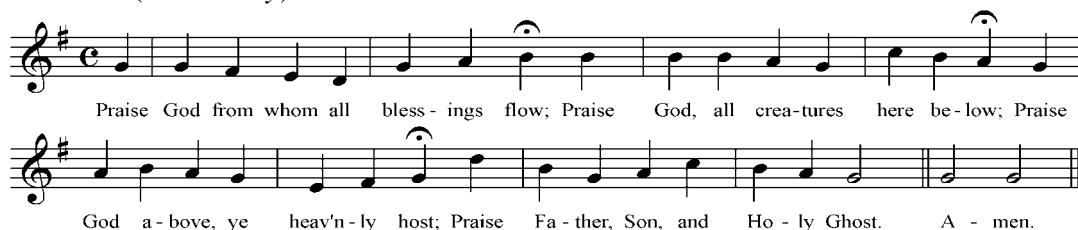
OFFERTORY

“GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD” (JOHN 3:16,17)

John Stainer

(10:00 only)

The Show-up and Sing Choir

***DOXOLOGY** *(10:00 only)*


Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low; Praise
 God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(unison) (10:00 only)*

Faithful God, we gratefully give in response to your abundant gifts of grace. You never forsook us when we were unfaithful. You never abandoned us to the misery of our own making. Your love never ceases as we worship other gods. As we today offer these tokens of thanks, go with us from church as we seek to make a difference in the world. Amen.

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,
 2. Why should we lin - ger when Je - sus is plead - ing,
 3. O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised,

call - ing for you and for me; pa - tient and lov - ing, he's
 plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we wait, then, and
 prom - ised for you and for me; tho' we have sinned he has

wait - ing and watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.
 heed not his mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me?
 mer - cy and par - don, par - don for you and for me.

Refrain
 Come home, come home, come home, ye who are
 Come home, come home, come home,

(cont'd)

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY (cont'd)

wea - ry, come home; ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,
Je - sus is call - ing— call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

The image shows a musical score for two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system has lyrics: "wea - ry, come home; ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,". The second system has lyrics: "Je - sus is call - ing— call - ing, 'O sin - ner, come home!'". The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

* * *

TODAY'S USHERS are Karalesa DiFabio, Gary Holmes, Marianne Lauer (8:30) and Mandy Teare.

TODAY'S MISSION MOMENT - Today, we welcome Jeanette Archer-Simons from the **Open Door Shelter**. She will tell us about the great work that Open Door is doing to help those in need in Norwalk through their new 19,000 square foot housing facility. The Open Door Shelter will be the lead beneficiary of *The 2017 Darien House Tour: Homes with Heart*. Their mission: to effectively address the causes and complexities of the homeless and working poor by providing shelter, food, clothing, case management services, transitional planning for short and long term goals, subsidized housing, education, employment, and a party towards independence and success.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you made a pledge for 2017, your Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up and can be found on the table, outside the church office. If you do not see envelopes with your name, and would like offering envelopes, please contact Karen Hansen at KHansen@uccdarien.org.

CLASSICS BOOK GROUP

The Classics Book Group will meet on Wednesday, February 22nd at 3:30 in the library. We will be talking about All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren. It's an open, friendly group. Call Sally Bassler to know more or surprise us!

KNITTING MINISTRY

The Knitting Ministry will break out their needles on February 12 at 11am in the Morehouse Room. Bring your knitting, crochet projects, needlepoint, and join us for fiber and fellowship. New needle crafters are especially welcome. There is nothing like a little yarn therapy to get you through these trying times.

For more information, contact Lora Grassilli loragrass@gmail.com

OPENINGS AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL

We have a few openings in the 3's and, for the first time ever, the Pre-k. If you are looking for a morning 3's class or are undecided about sending your child on to kindergarten in September, call us at 203 655-3150. Teri Manning is happy to discuss options!

THE DARIEN DOMESTIC ABUSE COUNCIL, INC.

The Darien Domestic Abuse Council, Inc. brings the Yellow Dress to Darien to raise awareness and educate our community about Teen Dating Violence and Domestic Abuse.

The Darien Library will sponsor this event on Thursday, February 22nd, at 7pm.

All are welcome to attend.

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN HELPS!

- **2nd annual 1,000 pound food challenge** - We are off to a great start thanks to "Soup or Bowl" where we brought in over 400 pounds of food! But we still need lots more to get to 1,000 pounds. Bring your food donations each Sunday or leave at the church any time!! Most

needed items include dried beans (both black & white), canned veggies, canned fruit, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, Chef Boyardee products (e.g., ravioli), rice (small bags preferred), cereal & peanut butter and small water bottles.

- **Midnight Run Sunday, April 1** - Boxes are ready for donations in the church library. Please help us fill them! We could use men's t-shirts, jeans, sweatshirts, belts and new socks and underwear. We also love travel size shampoos, soaps, tissues, chapsticks and washcloths. A few items needed for women. Thank you!
- **Habitat for Humanity Build Days** in Bridgeport - FCCD is invited to join The Sound Coalition of Churches in Fairfield to help build on the following dates during 2017: 2/18, 4/8, 7/8, 8/26, 10/21 and 12/9. No experience needed! Just come with willing hands and heart! Helpers (16 or older) will meet at the warehouse by 8:30 am, and be done by 4. Please email Heather Raker at hraker@me.com to help.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events held by our Outreach Beneficiaries!

Grab some friends and GO and SUPPORT our fabulous friends!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Havana Nights - Saturday, February 25, 2017, 6:30 to 11:00 pm at Fairfield Theater Company Warehouse, 70 Sanford Street, Fairfield. More info at habitatcfc.org.

PACIFIC HOUSE Dessert and Chocolate Lovers Tasting - Friday, March 31, 2017, 7 to 10 pm at the Hyatt in Greenwich. More info at pacifichouse.org.

INSPIRICA Spring Soiree - Thursday April 20, 2017, 5:30 to 7:30 pm at The Palace Theater, 61 Atlantic Street, Stamford. More info at inspiricact.org.

Thank you for your hands on help for those in need!

The First Congregational Church of Darien Board of Outreach

Chair: Heather Raker, Vice Chair: Anna Denoyer, Members: Gayle Appleby, Lindsay Atha, Scott Barrett, Tracey Berry, Elmerina Brooks, Annette Madden-Kline, Bob McGee, Charlie Wetmore, Carol Wilson, Lauren Swenson



Midnight Run Collection Has Begun:
Look for the Marked Donation Boxes in the Library

On Saturday, April 1, members of our congregation and Youth Group will be heading into NYC to bring food, clothing, and personal care items to the homeless living on the streets. We are asking for the entire congregation to help with our collection efforts. Here's how you can participate:

- Church School families are being asked to collect personal care items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths, soap, deodorant, shampoo, lip balm and tissue packages. Details are being sent out to all via e-mail. If you are unsure what your child is supposed to collect, please contact MJ Colman.
- We need LOTS of men's clothing, specifically in this order: durable pants like blue jeans or sweatpants (large sizes preferred); socks (tube socks, white or dark); men's briefs (jockey style, sizes 32 to 42); sweatshirts, and long-sleeve shirts (large and extra-large, dark colors preferred); and T-shirts (medium to extra-large).
- We need just a few of the same items for women. Typically, we'll clothe 60-65 men and about 10 women during the evening.
- NEW this year: We would like to give everyone who comes out a recyclable shopping bag to carry food and clothing home. If you have bags to spare, please consider donating. These will work better than paper grocery bags used in the past.

You are more than welcome to clean out your closet and bring items in that are in clean and good condition. Please do not use this as an opportunity to give us everything in your closet you don't want.

If you are out and about at Walmart, Kohl's, or Target, look for deals and pick up a few new items to donate (especially new socks and underwear).

Don't have time to shop? No problem, our youth will happily do it for you! Simply give your donation to Gary Morello or Karen Brennan and they'll get the youth organized and looking for deals. We can make \$25 go a long way at Walmart!

Questions? Please contact our Midnight Run organizers, Gary Morello and Karen Brennan.

***CALLING ALL CHURCH SCHOOL KIDS!
PLEASE JOIN US AT CHURCH SCHOOL
ON FEBRUARY 12th, 2017
FOR OUR 1ST ANNUAL***

**BIBLE
JEOPARDY**

**HOSTED BY OUR VERY OWN TEEN JEOPARDY
STAR...**



MICHAEL BORECKI!

***TEST YOUR BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE!
COMPETE WITH YOUR FRIENDS!
PRIZES! SNACKS! AND MORE!***

“Music at First” NEWS:

Fat/Jazz Sunday: Feb 26

A Dixieland celebration of being back in our beloved Meetinghouse.

We will thank God for our restored and refreshed Meetinghouse, rededicate our sanctuary for worship, and celebrate our new hymnals and pew cushions. We will raise our voices in song, tap our feet, and clap our hands in joyful gratefulness. Then we will eat our fill of delicious southern-style food in the Parish Hall.

“Alt Music Sunday”: March 12

Something a little different than the choir singing...perhaps an instrumentalist...perhaps Dan will teach us a new hymn. Always inspirational and appropriate for worship, get ready for some alternative music.

Cabaret Night: March 18

Invite your family and friends for our annual Cabaret Night. You will enjoy some good songs performed by our church’s own talent in a relaxed club-style setting with light food and drink. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. A free-will donation will be taken to cover costs.

For more information on the music program, contact Mariann Bigelow (bigelow3@optonline.net) or John Stuart (johnstuartmktg@optonline.net)

SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM AND SKILLS!

Add your unique talents to the leadership of our church by joining one of our four Boards. We invite you to feel the reward of deeper involvement at FCCD.

Board of Deacons: Responsible for our worship services, including the order of worship, the music, the scripture readings, communion, ushers, greeters, and feedback to the clergy, as well as our church's membership. Meets the 2nd Monday of each month - Evening Meetings.

Board of Stewards: Handles our church's finances, including the budget, investments, restricted funds, as well as maintaining and improving the buildings and grounds. Meets the 2nd Monday of each month - Evening Meetings.

Board of Christian Education: In charge of the Church School, adult education programs, special events (the Sunday Sundae ice cream social, the Blessing of the Animals, the Advent Workshop, etc.) and youth programs. Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month - Evening Meetings.

Board of Christian Outreach: Researches local nonprofits, allocates church charitable funds to these groups, organizes hands-on mission projects and our ongoing relationship serving the Norwalk Emergency Shelter. Oversees the In May We Help campaign, Christmas Dove Box program, and monthly Food First Sundays. Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month - Evening Meetings.

*"MEET NEW PEOPLE", "FEEL REWARD", ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION OUTSIDE YOUR CURRENT SPHERE",
"HAVE FUN!" ***

***(words of current board members)*

Your participation in the volunteer leadership of our church is an important and rewarding part of being a member of this congregation. **Ideally, each family is represented on at least one board.**

We look forward to helping you find the committee that best suits your current interests and talents!! Be in touch with Molly for more information at mollyo60@aol.com.

Thank you!

2017 Nominating Committee,

*Anna Denoyer, Audrey Esmond, Tom Hager, Andy Huntington, Harry McLachlin,
Dave Miller, Leo Schlinkert, Molly Watkins*

WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

**"Where God's extravagant love welcomes and affirms,
where Christ's transforming truth enlivens and compels."**

We are an accepting community where faith in Christ makes a difference. We welcome you to worship with us wherever you are on your journey. As a spiritual home, our hallmarks are education, fellowship and pastoral care. Children have a special place in our church family, and are embraced with love, guidance and opportunities for spiritual growth. We are a church of conscience, unafraid of the issues of today and serving as a reconciling force among different faiths.

CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY

Knitting Ministry, 11:00 a.m. in the Morehouse Room
"Come As You Are" worship, 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Care, Connect & Communicate, 6:30 p.m. in the Morehouse Room
Board of Deacons, 7:45 p.m. in the Circle Room
Board of Stewards, 7:45 p.m. in the Morehouse Room

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Church Council, 8:00 p.m. in the Circle Room

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. in the Morehouse Room
Senior Choir, 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Ministers: Every member of the congregation.

Clergy and Staff:

The Rev. Dale Rosenberger, *Senior Minister (emergency pager) 1- (203) 368-7789*

Gary M. Morello, *Associate Minister*

The Rev. Ronald T. Evans, *Pastor Emeritus*

Mary Jo Colman, *Church School Director*

Daniel Hague, *Music Director* Maxim Pakhomov, *Organist*

Teri Manning, *Nursery School Director* Karen Hansen, *Treasurer*

Pamela Toason, *Church Administrator (M, T)* Dennis Hanlon, *Church Administrator (W, Th, Fri)*

Carlos Maya, *Weekday Sexton* Ruth Salazar, *Sunday Sexton*