



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
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EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 30, 2017

9:00 a.m.



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

PRELUDE

Mr. Daniel Hague

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dale Rosenberger, Senior Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #18**

“PRAISE TO THE LIVING GOD”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

God beckons us. God calls us together today.
Fleeing him is the longest race we will ever run.

**From our routines and struggles, we come.
Amid our stresses and anxieties, we gather.**

God is prepared to satisfy our hunger and thirst.
God eagerly embraces us with everlasting arms.

**In hope, we seek the Lord’s caring presence.
In faith, we dare to trust God’s steadfast love.**

God leads us to a new identity, to a new life.
To follow Jesus Christ is to be transformed.

**We are all resident aliens in a foreign land.
God’s realm is the true home that we seek.**

***OPENING PRAYER**

Gary 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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT OF SILENCE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

DEUTERONOMY 26:8-13

Dave Miller, Deacon

The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

When you have finished paying all the tithes of your produce in the third year (which is the year of the tithe), giving it to the Levites, the aliens, the orphans, and the widows, so that they may eat their fill within your towns, then you shall say before the Lord your God: ‘I have removed the sacred portion from the house, and I have given it to the Levites, the resident aliens, the orphans, and the widows, in accordance with your entire commandment that you commanded me; I have neither transgressed nor forgotten any of your commandments:

*HYMN #68

“THOUGH I MAY SPEAK”

GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 14:12-24

He said also to the one who had invited him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’ *(continued)*

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, ‘Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, “Come; for everything is ready now.” But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, “I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my apologies.” Another said, “I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my apologies.” Another said, “I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.” So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, “Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.” And the slave said, “Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.” Then the master said to the slave, “Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.” ’

SERMON

“GOD’S IDEA OF A GOOD PARTY”

Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow: Praise God all creatures here below:
Praise god above ye heav’nly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*unison*)

O God, we seek hope to outlast disappointment and faith to rise above rejection. Remind us that the gospel’s logic is unlike the world’s, and its mysteries point to healing and reconciliation. As we give our gifts, embolden us to stand with the powerless, the abandoned, the forgotten, uniting our lives in word and witness. Amen.

***HYMN #78**

“THERE IS LOVE ALL AROUND YOU”

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

Mr. Daniel Hague

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TODAY’S USHERS are Phil Meyer and Dave Miller.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLASSICS BOOK GROUP

The Classics Book Group is reading Trollope's, Barchester Towers and is meeting on Wednesday, September 20 in the library, at 3:30 p.m. Come check us out. Call Sally Bassler or just come, (203) 655-9658; sbassler13@gmail.com.) even if you haven't read/finished the book. This is a long one - hence for summer reading!

DEDICATE A HYMNAL TO SOMEONE SPECIAL WITH A BOOKPLATE

Please see inside back cover. Return your completed form to the church office.

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you made a pledge for 2017, your Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up and are 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.

Summer Worship!

Sunday, June 25 - September 3

**One service, each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
followed by lemonade on the lawn!**



OUR CHURCH EXPENSES DO NOT TAKE A SUMMER VACATION
Please keep your pledge current!

Hymns of Truth & Light

Dedicate a hymnal to someone special with a bookplate!

The cost of adding a personalized bookplate is \$25 per hymnal. Please fill out the following form, printing clearly so that your name and that of a loved one are readable and reproducible on a bookplate:

Your Name: _____

Email _____

>>To honor the memory of a loved one:

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

>To celebrate someone special:

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

>>To dedicate a meetinghouse hymnal(s) in your family name:

Your family name: _____

>>Otherwording: _____

Total number of hymnals ordered above: _____

Total amount due with this order: \$ _____ (Price: \$25ea)

(Please make check out to First Congregational Church of Darien, with "hymnal" in the memo section, and leave it and the form in the church office.)

Thank you! Through your purchase, you are helping subsidize the cost of these hymnals to the church.

WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

***“Where God’s extravagantly welcoming love brings us all in,
and Christ’s transforming truth sends us all back out again.”***

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

(don't forget Food First!)

Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.

Ministers: Every member of the congregation.

Clergy and Staff:

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

Gary Morello, *Associate Minister*

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

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

Christine Geeding, *Director of Christian Education* 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*