



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

United Church of Christ  
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***ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***  
***July 31, 2016 – 9:00 a.m.***



# *ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*

*July 31, 2016 – 9:00 a.m.*

*Childcare is available for children up to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, in the Nursery School.*

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

**PRELUDE**

Mr. Daniel Hague, Music Director

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Gary Morello, Associate Minister

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*HYMN**

“YOUR LOVE, O GOD”

*Unison*



1. Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow,  
2. We long for freedom where our truest being,  
3. But there are walls that keep us all divided;  
4. O judge us, God, and in your judgment free us,  
wide as the wind, and our eternal home.  
is given hope and courage to unfold.  
we fence each other in with hate and war.  
and set our feet in freedom's open space;

*(continued on next page)*

“YOUR LOVE, O GOD” (cont’d)

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system of music covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The lyrics are: "You leave us free to seek you or re-ject you, We seek in free-dom space and scope for dream-ing, Fear is the bricks and mor-tar of our pris-on, take us as far as your com-pas-sion wan-ders you give us room to an-swer 'yes' or 'no.' and look for ground where trees and plants can grow. our pride of self, the pris-on coat we wear. a-mong the chil-dren of the hu-man race."

You leave us free to seek you or re-ject you,  
We seek in free-dom space and scope for dream-ing,  
Fear is the bricks and mor-tar of our pris-on,  
take us as far as your com-pas-sion wan-ders

you give us room to an-swer "yes" or "no."  
and look for ground where trees and plants can grow.  
our pride of self, the pris-on coat we wear.  
a-mong the chil-dren of the hu-man race.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

Listen, all who are fleeing from the Holy One;  
God is calling us; God has called us together.

**O give thanks to God, for our God is awesome!  
God's steadfast love endures forever.**

God is eager to put loving arms around us.  
God is waiting to satisfy our hunger and thirst.

**God fills the hungry with good things.  
Our thirsty souls are filled to overflowing.**

Set your mind on things that are above.  
God needs you to bring light into the world.

**God leads us to a new identity, to new life.  
We seek renewal in the image of our Creator.**

## \*OPENING PRAYER

### \*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

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### MOMENT OF SILENCE

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-16

Gary Holmes, Deacon

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Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Better is a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king, who will no longer take advice. One can indeed come out of prison to reign, even though born poor in the kingdom. I saw all the living who, moving about under the sun, follow that youth who replaced the king; there was no end to all those people whom he led. Yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. Surely, this also is vanity and a chasing after wind.



*Unison*





1. Out of the depths, O God, we call to you.  
 2. Out of the depths of fear, O God, we speak.  
 3. God of the lov - ing heart, we praise your name.


\* Wounds of the past re - main, af - fect - ing all we do.  
 Break - ing the si - lenc - es, the sear - ing truth we seek.  
 Dance through our lives and loves; a - noint with Spir - it flame.

Fac - ing our lives, we need your love so  
 Safe a - mong friends, our grief and rage we  
 Your light il - lu - mines each fa - mil - iar

much. Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, heal us by your touch.  
 share. Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, hold us in your care.  
 face. Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, meet us with your grace.



Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”

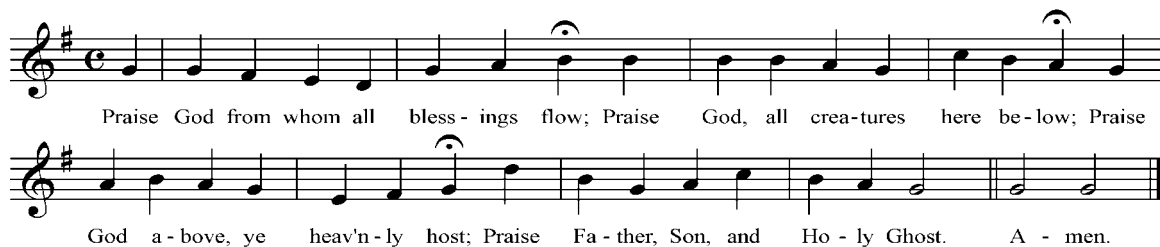
SERMON

“AGAPE LOVE”

Gary Morello, Associate Minister

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

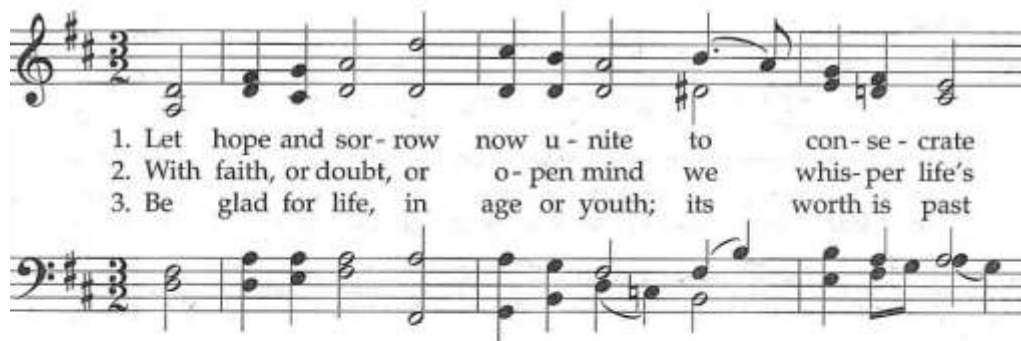


Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be - low; Praise  
 God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

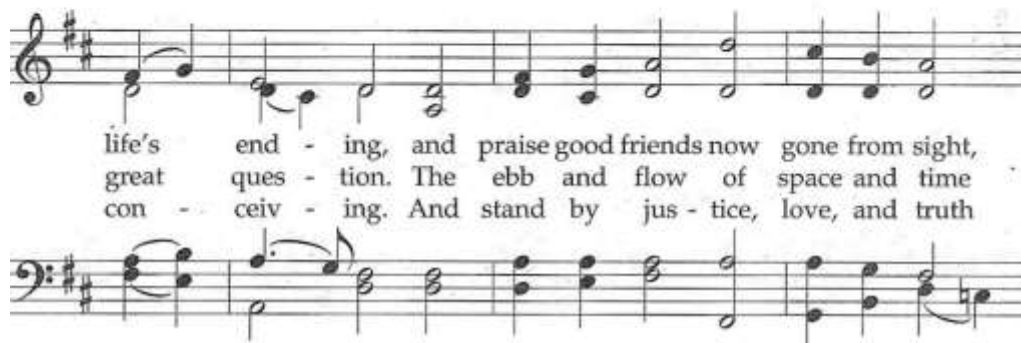
\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*(unison)*

**Life does not consist in the abundance of our possessions. All that we currently possess will someday belong to others. We have the privilege in this life to do good with all that God has entrusted to us. We bring a portion now to be blessed by God in the work of our church, Christ’s church, here and in other places. Amen.**



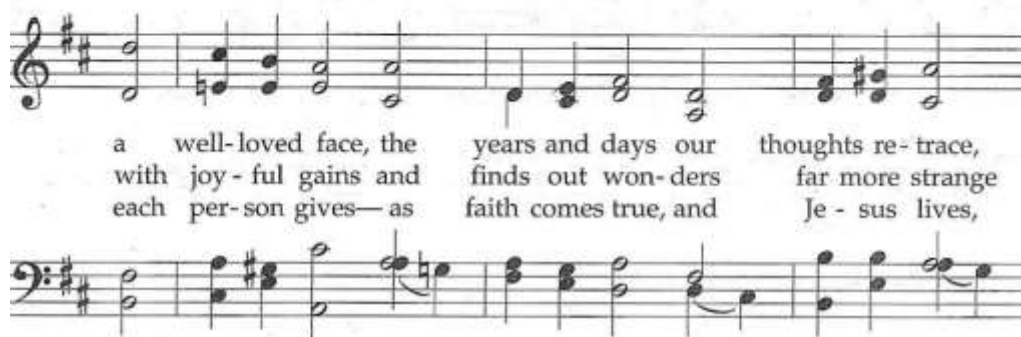
1. Let hope and sor-row now u-nite to con-se-crate  
 2. With faith, or doubt, or o-pen mind we whis-per life's  
 3. Be glad for life, in age or youth; its worth is past



life's end-ing, and praise good friends now gone from sight,  
 great ques-tion. The ebb and flow of space and time  
 con-ceive-ing. And stand by jus-tice, love, and truth



though grief and loss are rend-ing. The sto-ry in  
 sur-pass our small per-cep-tion. Yet knowl-edge grows  
 as pat-terns for be-liev-ing. Give thanks for all



a well-loved face, the years and days our thoughts re-trace,  
 with joy-ful gains and finds out won-ders far more strange  
 each per-son gives—as faith comes true, and Je-sus lives,

(continued on next page)

“LET HOPE AND SORROW NOW UNITE” (cont'd)

are than there'll trea - sures worth be an end de - fend - ing. ur - rec - tion. to griev - ing.

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Mr. Daniel Hague

\* \* \*

TODAY'S USHERS are April Barker and Gary Holmes.

**MUSIC NOTES:** “Your Love, O God,” Words: Anders Frostenson, 1968; tr. Fred Kaan, 1972. Music: V. Earle Copes, 1963. Translation © 1974 by Hope Publishing. Used with permission. Music © 1963 The United Methodist Publishing House . Used with Permission. CCLI#2769556. “Out of the Depths,” Words: Ruth Duck, 1988. Music: Ann MacKenzie, ©1992 GIA Publications. Used with permission. . OneLicense A-711855. “Let Hope and Sorrow Now Unite,” Words: Brian Wren, 1979, rev. 1983. © 1983 by Hope Publishing. Used with Permission. CCLI#2769556. Music: Bohemian Bretheren’s *Krichengesänge*, 1566 .



# **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS**

The First Congregational Church Nursery School has a couple openings in the 2's and the 4's for 2016-2017. Please call the school 203 655-3150 or email [fccns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fccns@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

## **TEACHING TEAM NEEDED FOR GRADE LEVELS PRE-K/1ST, 4TH -7TH!!**

Calling parents to step up and volunteer one Sunday a month throughout September 4th - June to assist, and facilitate Sunday School classes. We wish to remind parents how important and gratifying it is to encourage and be an active participant in your child's faith journey. Please note that all lessons are prepared for you in advance. When there are teams of 6 parents per grade sections (eg. K/1, 2/3,...) the rotation of committed Sundays becomes less frequent.

## **COMPANION HYMNALS - DON'T MISS OUT!!!**

Over the summer, the new blue companion hymnals will be arriving!! For \$25 each, why not have one or two in your favorite pew with your name or a loves ones name personalized inside?? These new hymnals will complement the Pilgrim Hymnals. Only a limited number are being ordered, so do not delay! Order forms are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Questions, please contact [kristindesautelle@gmail.com](mailto:kristindesautelle@gmail.com). Thank you!

## **OUR CHURCH EXPENSES DO NOT TAKE A SUMMER VACATION**

***Please keep your pledge current!***



## **CHURCH CALENDAR**

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 7**

Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.

### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 14**

Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.

Welcome Back to Church

# PICNIC

A series of black silhouettes depicting various picnic activities: a person holding a drink, a person with a dog, a person sitting at a table, a person with a picnic basket, a person standing, a person with a camera, a person with a grill, a person with a kite, and a person with a child.

Sunday, September 11, 2016  
Right after our 10 a.m. "Jazz Worship" service

FOOD  
LIVE MUSIC  
ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS

JOIN US!  
BRING A FRIEND!!

The First Congregational Church of Darien  
14 Brookside Road, Darien CT  
(203) 655-0491

**WELCOME TO THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

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.



**Ministers:** Every member of the congregation.

**Clergy and Staff:**

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

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on Facebook, Google+, Vimeo and "@UCCDarien" on Twitter.

