



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN

United Church of Christ
14 Brookside Road, Darien, CT 06820
Phone: 203-655-0491 Fax: 203-655-7620
E-mail: info@uccdarien.org
www.uccdarien.org



SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 16, 2017

9:00 a.m.



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

PRELUDE

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dale Rosenberger, Senior Minister

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN #60**

“THIS IS MY FATHER’S WORLD”

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(responsively)

Early in the day, our thoughts turn to the Lord;
we feel led to seek out places where God dwells.

We come, trusting God’s steadfast love.

We gather, seeking his way as life itself.

God has made everlasting vows not to forget us.
We proclaim his faithfulness to every generation.

**Sometimes it feels like God has forgotten us;
for we miss God at work as enemies flourish.**

God forgives how our trust falters, without proof;
his gifts of grace are free, but not cheap or easy.

**We bring both our joys and struggles before God,
trusting his genius to transform all this into good.**

***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



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

GENESIS 2:4-17

Steve Weeden, Deacon

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’

*HYMN #493

“IN THE BULB THERE IS A FLOWER”

He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

SERMON

“FINDING MEANING IN LIFE’S MESSSES”

Rev. Rosenberger

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY (10:00 only)

*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) (10:00 only)

Accept our offering of praise and ourselves, O God, along with these contributions for the saving and healing works of your reign. You have given us life and guidance for living. You have made us partners in and partakers of your Holy Spirit. We rejoice in the opportunity to receive and share your word. May our efforts bear fruit on your behalf. Amen.

*HYMN #528

“WE PLOW THE FIELDS AND SCATTER”

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Rosenberger

POSTLUDE

Mr. Maxim Pakhomov

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TODAY’S USHERS are Steve Weeden and Liz Werner.

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 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

SUNDAY, JULY 23

Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 30

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*

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*