



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DARIEN**

United Church of Christ  
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***NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***

***August 6, 2017***

***9:00 a.m.***

*Good things come to those who  
Believe, Better things come to those  
who are Patient.*



***NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST***  
***August 6, 2017***  
***9:00 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**

Mr. Dennis Raley

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Gary M. Morello, Associate Minister

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*HYMN #434**

“GOD IS MY STRONG SALVATION”

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come into the presence of God to be fed.  
Come to call on God, who is eager to answer.

**We gather to seek God’s beauty.  
Let our eyes see all that is right and true.**

Incline your ears to hear all God would teach.  
Seek to experience God’s steadfast love.

**We are here to receive God’s blessing.  
God is our refuge in a frightening world.**

God is near to all who call and seek.  
Come to praise God and receive a blessing.

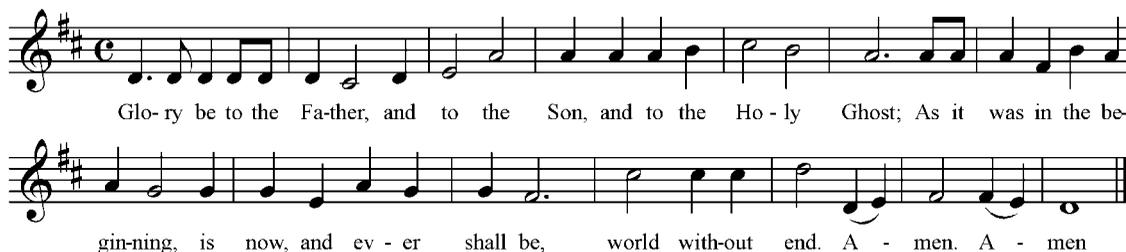
**Open all our senses to pay close attention, O God.  
We want to renew our covenant with you.**

## \*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

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-32

Tucker Scott, Deacon

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,  
'therefore I will hope in him.'  
The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.  
It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.  
It is good for one to bear  
the yoke in youth,  
to sit alone in silence  
when the Lord has imposed it,  
to put one's mouth to the dust  
(there may yet be hope), (*continued*)

to give one's cheek to the smiter,  
and be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not  
reject forever.

Although he causes grief, he will have compassion  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

**\*HYMN #453**

“IN DEEP DESPAIR I CRY TO YOU”

**EPISTLE LESSON**

ROMANS 8:31-39

Gary Morello

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**SERMON**

"GOD'S LIGHT SHINING THROUGH THE DARKNESS OF DESPAIR"

Gary Morello

**OFFERTORY**

“YOU RAISE ME UP”

B. Graham/R. Lovland

**\*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*)

**Thank you, God, for all you have given to satisfy our needs. You quench our thirst and alleviate our hungers when we turn to you. You turn scarcity into plenty and give us the opportunity to help others. May our offering proclaim your goodness and mercy. May they be devoted to extending the beloved community of your people. Keep our words and actions attuned to your will, that we may offer to all what they need from your hand. Amen.**

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**INVITATION**

**CALL TO PRAYER**

(Leader)

The Lord be with you.

(Congregation)

**And also with you.**

(Leader)

Lift up your hearts.

(Congregation)

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

(Leader)

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(Congregation)

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**\*SANCTUS**

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

*Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart knows how to say to you: Holy are you, Lord!*

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (*unison*)

**Almighty God, we praise you, and extol you, for you have satisfied us with the food and drink of eternal life. Having been reclaimed in the sacrifice of your Son, we offer ourselves, our bodies and souls, as a holy and precious offering. May our lives be lived for the glory of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**\*HYMN**

“GOD IS LOVE”

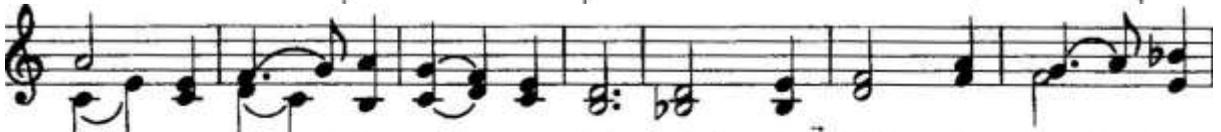
# GOD IS LOVE



1. God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let  
2. God is Love; and love en - folds us, all the world in  
3. God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts - all



earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him  
one em - brace; with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,  
hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing kind - ness



and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun-  
ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are  
guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall



da - tion, God who spread the heavens a - bove, God who breathes thro'  
break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that  
nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so



all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.  
self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.  
Love for - ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

\*BENEDICTION

Gary Morello

POSTLUDE

Mr. Rualey

TODAY'S USHERS are Phil Meyer and Tucker Scott.

TODAY'S FLOWERS In loving memory of Leo Cochrane and Will Warrick.

## 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](mailto:sbassler13@gmail.com).) even if you haven't read/finished the book. This is a long one - hence for summer reading!

### 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](mailto:KHansen@uccdarien.org).

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



**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 13**

Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20**

Worship Service at 9:00 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*

Christine Geeding, *Director of Christian Education*

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*