

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ (UCC)



Open and Affirming † Intergenerational † A Just Peace Church

“We share in God’s love by growing in faith, courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.” ~ Our Mission at SCC



SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026
SUMMERTIME WORSHIP
PROPER 12, ORDINARY TIME

Please stand as you are able “”.*

*Please remember to **silence cell phones** and other devices and be mindful of those who wish to use the prelude as a time of prayer, meditation, and preparation for worship.*

Accessibility: See an usher for **large-print** bulletins and **wheelchair** or **accessible seating**.

Devices necessary to access worship fully are welcome.

The restroom in this building is at the front of the church behind the doors to the right of the chancel. A **PRAYGROUND** is also located in the northeast corner of the building and available for children and families.

Our services are recorded on Zoom and live-streamed on YouTube.

The flowers on the chancel are donated by Richard and Pamela Roberts:

“In thanks to SCC for its support and connections over many years
and for our children and grandchildren as we celebrate our wedding 56 years ago.”

GATHERING

Whatever your faith tradition, doubts or questions about God; whatever your color skin, gender identity or expression, wherever you find yourself on life’s journey, you are welcome here. You matter to God, and you matter to us. Welcome!

Prelude – “The Hanging Garden” (Chacone) by Jehan Alain

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Bringing in the Light

Welcome

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

Call to Worship (responsive)

Duffy Brookes

One: Like a tiny seed or a little leaven,

Many: the realm of God grows among us.

One: Like a hidden treasure or precious pearl,

Many: the realm of God is all we desire. Let us worship!

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: Friends, we invite you to rise in body or in spirit and offer one another a sign of
God’s peace. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: And also with you!

***Hymn – “By Gracious Powers”**

*New Century Hymnal [black] p. 413
this bulletin p. 8*

Call to Confession

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Giver of all gifts, we confess that we do not reflect your glory. We devote ourselves to small things while you work for a greater purpose. We distract ourselves with grand designs while you surprise us with hidden wonders. Forgive us, restore and reorder our lives by the grace of Jesus Christ. May we know your will, seek your way, and share your work, to the glory of your holy name. (time of silent confession)

Words of Assurance

One: Beloved, hear this good news: God's steadfast love and faithfulness are beyond measure. God calls us to worship and serve,

Many: and rewards us with freedom and abundant life. Amen.

Children's Moment

Our Family Room is not staffed during summer months. It is open and available to interested families as desired/needed. Children of all ages are, naturally, always welcome to remain in worship.

WORD

God Speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

ANTHEM – “Redeeming Grace” early American, arr. K. Lee Scott

Cathy Jeffers

Come all who love my Lord and Master and like old David, I will tell,
Though chief of sinners. I've found favor. Redeemed grace from death and hell.
Far as the east from west is parted, so far my sins, by his dying love,
From me by faith are separated, blest antepast of joys above.

I late estranged from Jesus wandered and thought each dang'rous poison good;
But he in mercy long pursued me with cries of his redeeming blood.
Though like Bartimaeus I was blinded in nature's darkest night concealed.
But Jesus' love removed my blindness, and he his pard'ning grace revealed.

Now I will serve him while he spares me, and with his people sing aloud;
Though hell oppose and sinners mock me, in rapt'rous songs I'll praise my God.
By faith I view the heav'nly concert, they sing the highest strains of Jesus' love;
I fain would be with Christ above.

Oh, with desire my soul is longing, and fain would be with Christ above.

Prayer of Illumination

Duffy Brookes

First Scripture Reading -

Psalm 119:129-136

pew Bibles p. 496

Refrain — “Come and Fill Our Hearts”

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.
Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!
Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!

Second Scripture Reading –

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

pew Bibles p. 795

Sermon – “Unexpected”

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

*Hymn – “In Solitude”

New Century Hymnal [black] p. 521
this bulletin p. 9

RESPONSE

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

A Time of Offering and Prayer Stations

During this time of offering, you are invited to remain at your pew for a time of reflection. You are also welcome to visit the prayer stations located around the sanctuary, including: “Stones and Water”; “Good News”; “Candle Lighting”; “Writing Our Prayers”; and “Offering our Gifts”. You are also welcome to make an offering from the pew by scanning the QR code for easy access.



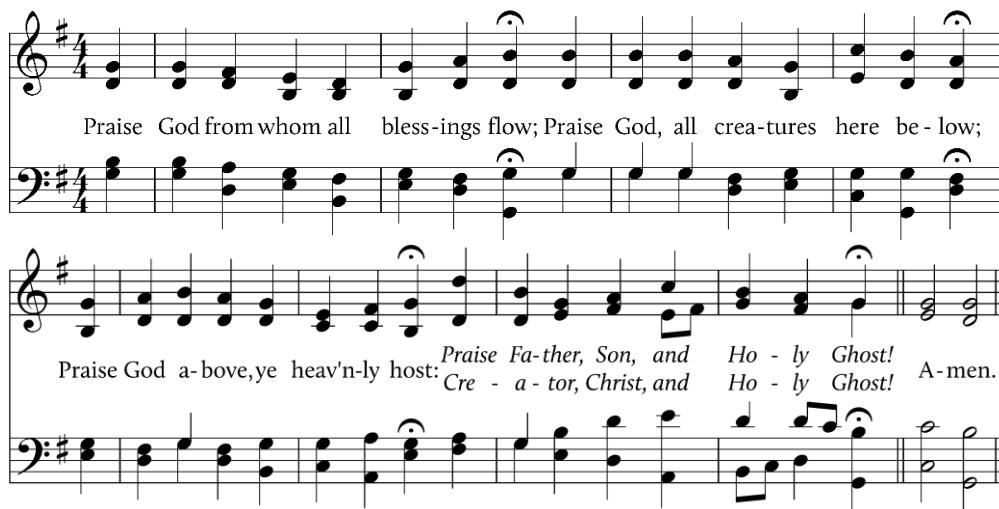
Call to Offering

ORGAN OFFERTORY – “Ciacona” by Johann Pachelbel

Dr. Patricia Snyder

***PRESENTING OUR GIFTS: The Doxology**

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here be low;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!
Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost! A-men.

***Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

Holy One, may these offerings serve as agents of healing in places of brokenness. For need is everywhere in our beautiful and hurting world. Amen.

Prayers of the People, ending with The Lord's Prayer

Many: Creator/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 glory forever. Amen.

SENDING

God Blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

News from our Life Together

***Hymn** – “Sent Forth By God’s Blessing”

*New Century Hymnal [black] p. 76
this bulletin p. 10*

***Benediction**

Postlude – “Voluntary in G” by John Stanley

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Be Our Guest for Potluck Fellowship!

Come on over to the Parish House Lounge and share a beverage, a bite to eat, and a chat! The Parish House is located in the buildings to the west of the Meeting House. Follow the others on over, or ask an usher to guide you... We look forward to seeing you! Remember to wear your Name Tag!

Worship

Every Sunday, 10:00 am, in the Meeting House and on Zoom & YouTube. Expressive, participatory liturgy; thoughtful preaching; and a soul-stirring blend of new and traditional music are some of the elements you can expect to encounter each Sunday.

Thank You Sunday Morning Servers for Assisting in today's service ...

Liturgist: Duffy Brookes; **Greeter:** Linda Blum; **Ushers:** Cass Crewdson, Bruce Bergen; **Welcome Table:** Laurie Brookes; **Fellowship Host:** The Brookes and Seaborns; **Tech Team:** Andy McCabe, Erin Scholes, Jan & Don Castle, Susan Irvine.

Sunday Morning Server Reminder for Next Week: **Liturgist:** Needed; **Greeter:** Janis Hoyle; **Head Usher:** Wes Lang-Rodean; **Usher:** Jamie Lang-Rodean; **Welcome Table:** Pam Roberts; **Fellowship Host:** Needed; **Communion:** xx, xx.

Please check your e-mails on Monday the 27th for the draft Sunday Server Schedule.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, Sunday July 26, 2026

10:00-11:00 am	Worship
11:00-12 pm	Fellowship
11:00-11:30 am	Library Open
7:30-8:30 pm	<i>Speaker Meeting</i>

Comings and Goings

Pastor Diane will be away for planning time July 27-29 and vacation time August 2-9. A deacon on call will be available for pastoral needs that may arise. Cass Crewdson will be the deacon on call August 1-9th, (860) 508-4249.

News and Notes

WANTED: Several "Type-A" fastidious volunteers to help put bookplate labels into the new Glory to God hymnals during August. Work on your own time or get together with others. The dedications will be pre-printed onto self-sticking Avery labels. Please let Trisha or Katie know if you'd like to be a part of this project. Thank you!

Please check your Glory to God Dedications!

There is a display in the lounge. You may either use a sticky note to indicate changes or pull the sheet out of the sleeve, mark it up, and put it back. It will be out this Sunday to next Sunday.

If you are unable to come in and check, you can always email the office to double check it or make a change. They will be proofed once more before final printing.

Potluck Fellowship Needs Goodies: One of the best parts of Sunday is seeing everyone chatting and laughing together during Fellowship Hour.

How can we make it even better? Well, the coffee is lonely. It could really use some company on the refreshment tables. Would you consider bringing a tasty snack to share on some Sundays? Please drop it off in the Lounge before service begins. Let's work together in extending an extravagant welcome to everyone who walks through our doors!

Name Tags: Need a new name tag? Email your request to the office by Monday, July 27th. Please include your full name and your preferred name.

CWS has updated their list of items needed for Health Kits. Please stop by the lounge or the Narthex to pick up the new list, and instructions. Please see Laurie Brookes if you have any questions.

The SCC Lunch Bunch: Friday, August 7 at 1:00 pm at Willington Pizza, 25 River Rd. (Rt. 32) Willington. Everyone is welcome to join us whenever you can. All are welcome - - singles, couples, men, women, all ages! Please let me know by Thursday, August 6 if you can be there in order to save a seat. Nancy Tomastik, 860-420-9494 or etomastik@earthlink.net.

By Gracious Powers

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1944**Transl. Fred Pratt Green, 1972; alt.**Unison*

1 By gra-cious powers so won-der-ful-ly shel-tered,
 2 Yet is this heart by its old foe tor-ment-ed,
 3 And when this cup you give is filled to brim-ming
 4 Yet when a-gain in this same world you give us

and con-fi-dent-ly wait-ing, come what may,
 still e-vil days bring bur-dens hard to bear;
 with bit-ter sor-row, hard to un-der-stand,
 the joy we had, the bright-ness of your sun,

We know that God is with us night and morn-ing,
 O give our fright-ened souls the sure sal-va-tion
 We take it thank-ful-ly and with-out trem-bling,
 We shall re-mem-ber all the days we lived through,

and nev-er fails to greet us each new day.
 for which, O God, you taught us to pre-pare.
 out of so good and so be-loved a hand.
 and our whole life shall then be yours a-lone.

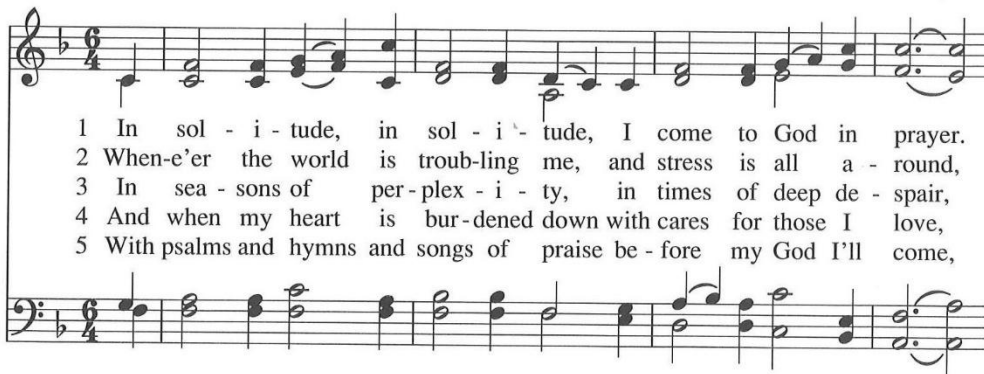
PRAYER

521

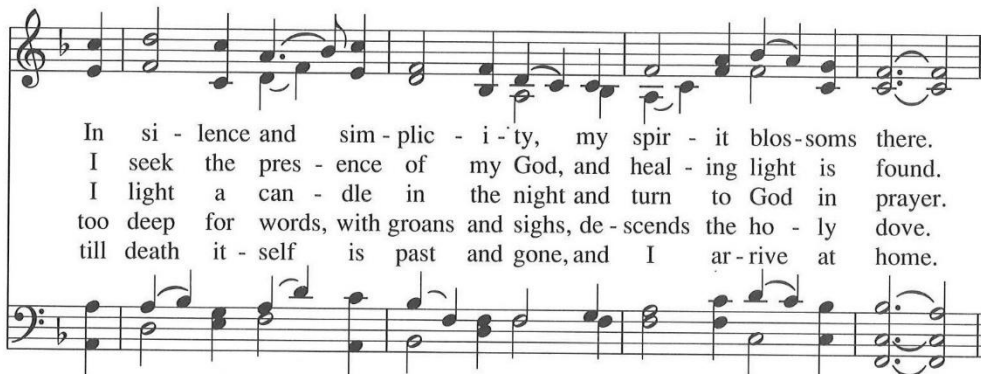
In Solitude

Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 5:18-20

Ruth Duck, 1983



1 In sol - i - tude, in sol - i - tude, I come to God in prayer.
 2 When-e'er the world is troub-ling me, and stress is all a - round,
 3 In sea - sons of per - plex - i - ty, in times of deep de - spair,
 4 And when my heart is bur-dened down with cares for those I love,
 5 With psalms and hymns and songs of praise be - fore my God I'll come,



In si - lence and sim - plic - i - ty, my spir - it blos-soms there.
 I seek the pres - ence of my God, and heal - ing light is found.
 I light a can - dle in the night and turn to God in prayer.
 too deep for words, with groans and sighs, de - scends the ho - ly dove.
 till death it - self is past and gone, and I ar - rive at home.

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf, 1964

Descant



2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

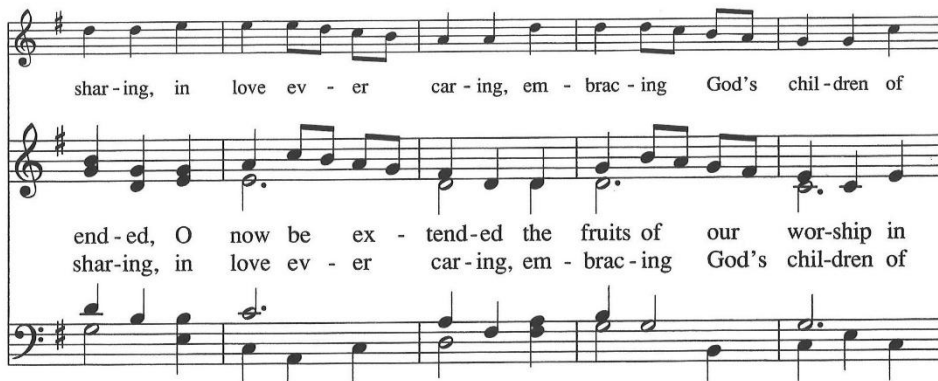
Unison

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the



tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er



shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in
shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with
all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -
each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this
cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for
your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -
God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -
life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.
nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.
giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

Notes and Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements:

- Scripture readings: The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright ©1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches in the U.S.A. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
- Worship liturgy - adapted from Call to Worship, Volume 47.1, Lectionary Aids, PCUSA.
- Refrain – “Come and Fill Our Hearts. Refrain from Glory to God Hymnal #466, Tet and Music: Jacques Berthier, 1982. Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé @admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
- Presenting Our Gifts: Doxology: Text by Thomas Ken, 1674, alt. Music attrib. Louis Bourgeois; from Trente quatre psaumes de David, Geneva, 1551.

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UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT:

WE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE LAND ON WHICH WE GATHER IS THE TERRITORY OF THE MOHEGAN, MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT, EASTERN PEQUOT, SCHAGHTICOKE, GOLDEN HILL PAUGUSSETT, NIPMUC, AND LENAPE PEOPLES, WHO HAVE STEWARDED THIS LAND THROUGHOUT THE GENERATIONS. WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR STRENGTH AND RESILIENCE IN PROTECTING THIS LAND, AND ASPIRE TO UPHOLD OUR RESPONSIBILITIES ACCORDING TO THEIR EXAMPLE. FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://nacp.uconn.edu/land-acknowledgement/>

We Welcome All!

We extend a welcome as broad as the outstretched arms of God.

Questions about our life together are always welcome. Ask any one of us!

If you are visiting, or looking for a church home, or simply wish to connect after worship, please introduce yourself to our pastor or any member.



We would love to meet you!

More information is also on our website, www.storrscongchurch.org.

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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