

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, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

PROPER 20, 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.

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 – “Awake, Awake to Love and Work” by Wilbur Held *Janice Castle, guest organist*

Bringing in the Light

Welcome *Rev Diane Peterson Seaborn*

Call to Worship (*responsive*) *Wesley Lang-Rodean*

One: Great is our God, and worthy of praise.

***Many:* God’s goodness knows no limit.**

One: God’s faithfulness toward us is boundless.

***Many:* Amen! 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** – “O God of Earth and Altar” *New Century Hymnal 582* *this bulletin p. 7*

Call to Confession *Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn*

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

God of peace, as sabers rattle in lands both close and distant, we confess we are in pain. Fear has taken root in the souls of our being. Like Jonah, we try to outrun you, afraid to face your truth and call. Like the vineyard workers, we chafe at your generosity toward others. Help us to see that we can stop running, for you accompany us. Help us to see that your generosity toward others intends to draw us back to one another. Help transform our fear into trust, and our anxiety into love. Remind us to inhale and exhale, and to know of your presence with our every breath. (*time of silent confession*)

Words of Assurance

One: On this Just Peace Sunday, may we be guided by our God of peace.

Many: Thanks be to our God who offers steadfast love, forgiveness, and generosity to one and all. May we follow God's ways of peace. Amen.

Children's Moment – Prayer Shawl Blessing

Our Family Room is not staffed; however, it is open and available to interested children and their grownups 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

Prayer of Illumination

Wesley Lang-Rodean

First Scripture Reading -

Jonah 3:10-4:11

this bulletin p. 8

Refrain — “Open My Heart” by Ana Hernández

The congregation sings: Open my heart. Open my heart.

Second Scripture Reading –

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

Matthew 20:1-16

this bulletin p. 9

Sermon – “Grumpy about Grace”

Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn

*Hymn – “Lord of All Hopefulness” *Pilgrim Hymnal* 217

this bulletin p. 10

RESPONSE

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

A Time of Offering

As the offering is collected, prayers of either joy or concern may be written on the purple prayer request cards found in the pew rack and placed in the offering plates as they are passed. Offerings may also be made electronically through our online ‘Give Now’ option. Scan the QR code for easy access.



Call to Offering

OFFERTORY – “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” Spiritual arr. by Robinson

Adult Choir

Chorus: Swing low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home!

Swing low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home!

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see, comin' for to carry me home!

A band of angels comin' after me, comin' for to carry me home! (Chorus)

If you get ther before I do, comin' for to carry me home!

Tell all my friends I'm comin' too, comin' for to carry me home! (Chorus)

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

“Fire Safety Quiz”

* **Hymn** – “For the Healing of the Nations” *New Century Hymnal* 576

this bulletin p. 11

* **Benediction**

Postlude – “Postludium” by Gordon Young

Janice Castle, guest organist

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 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 for assisting in today's service ...

Liturgist: Wes Lang-Rodean; **Greeter:** Jamie Lang-Rodean; **Ushers:** Rosemary Marcellino, Donna Latincsics; **Welcome Table:** Ariana Codr; **Fellowship Host:** Diana Alvarado; **Tech Team:** Andy McCabe, Erin Scholes, Jan & Don Castle, Susan Irvine.

Sunday Morning Server Reminder for Next Week: **Liturgist:** Sue Irvine; **Greeter:** Carolyn Holmy; **Head Usher:** Paul Schur; **Usher:** NEEDED; **Welcome Table:** NEEDED; **Fellowship Host:** Diana Alvarado;

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, Sunday September 20, 2026

8:45-9:45 am	Student Breakfast
9:00-10:00 am	Adult Choir
10:00-11:00 am	Worship
11:00-11:30 am	Seekers Gathering
11:00-12 pm	Fellowship
11:00-11:30 am	Library Open
11:30-12:30 pm	Food Pantry Open
2:30-5 pm	Consonare

Comings and Goings

Trisha is away 9/20, Jan Castle is substituting, and Maggie Murray is leading the Choir. Diane will be away Sept on 27, We welcome Elaine Greer as Guest Preacher. Antonio will be on vacation September 21-22, 24-28, he will be in on the 23.

News and Notes

From the collectors: All personal and bank checks must have a note in the memo line indicating what the payment is for (pledge/and or other fund).

Seekers Gathering TODAY: After worship. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member of SCC, please join us! Help yourself to refreshments after worship and then meet us in the Memorial Room (adjacent to Auditorium). ~Pastor Diane and Deacon Jamie Lang-Rodean

We are excited to welcome Diana Alvarado as a new Student Fellowship Host! Diana will be serving intermittently, supplementing our wonderful group of Fellowship volunteers.

Diana is a double major at UConn in Art and Art History and has been working with the church in an office capacity for the past year. We have gotten to know her as a friendly, capable, and dependable member of our church community, and we are delighted that she has agreed to take on this new role. Please join us in welcoming Diana and thanking her for being willing to help make our Fellowship time special for everyone! – Rosemary Marcellino

Noontime Organ Recital: September 23, Angela Salcedo at SCC.

Music Ministry: Handbell Choir rehearsals are Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:20 p.m. **Adult Choir rehearsals** are Thursdays, 7:30 to 9:00 pm, see Trisha if you are interested in joining.

The SCC Lunch Bunch will be getting together on **Friday, October 2, 1:00 pm** at Lakeview Restaurant in Coventry. please contact Nancy Tomastik by Thursday, October 1, by calling 860-420-9494 or emailing etomastik@earthlink.net.

Celebrate Mansfield Sat 9/26 from 2pm-6pm: Can you help with set up, take down and/or welcoming folks at our SCC table? It's a wonderful opportunity to be in the community and offer our welcome! Please contact Outreach coordinator, Kareena DuPlessis (kareenad55@gmail.com) if you can help. Thank you!

Pecan Fundraiser: If you are interested in running this year's Pecan Fundraiser please contact the office. This fundraiser is an SCC tradition that we would like to keep going! The office provides support with record keeping and fund collection. The chair works

with the Schumer company on purchase and delivery, organizes the order for distribution, and coordinates sales at the Christmas Fair.

'News of Our Life' announcements: We are making a change to the "News of Our Life" announcement element of worship. Pastor Diane will begin making most announcements during worship. Here are the ways you can share announcements with our community:

Weekly **email** announcements go out in our "News and Notes." Deadline for submission to Ellen Bradley (insert email) is Monday.

Announcements can be **printed** in our weekly bulletin. Deadline for submission to Katie Bienvenue (insert email) is Tuesday.

Once our SCC **website** is updated, some announcements can be added periodically to the website. Stay tuned for more information. The contact for website-related questions is Ellen Bradley.

A request for an announcement to be made during worship can be emailed to Rev. Diane Seaborn no later than Thursdays 4pm (diane@storrsconchurch.org). Thank you!

Monday Movement Meetings, held at **Mansfield Middle School** 5:30-6:30 pm, All are welcome! 9/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/9, 11/23.

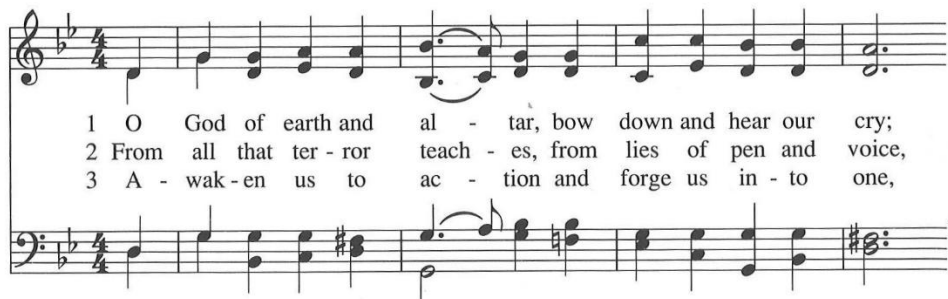
SCC Social on **Saturday, October 3** in the SCC lounge beginning at **5:30 pm**. We will be enjoying each other's company and pizza. There will be a sign up sheet in the lounge starting this Sunday, September 20 to help with planning. Any questions, please contact Robert Jeffers at jeffersjrr@aol.com or ask him in church. See you at the Social!

O God of Earth and Altar

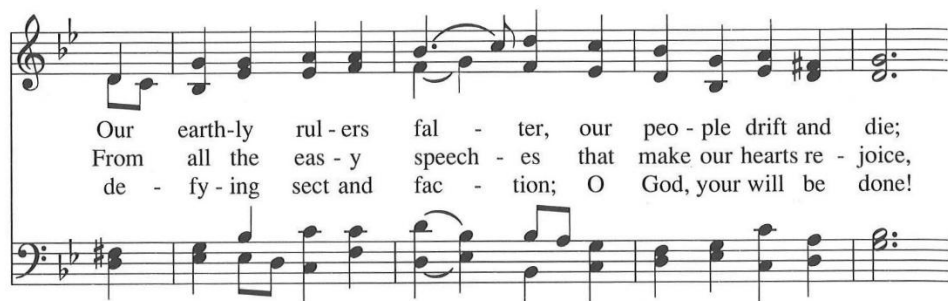
St. 1-2, Gilbert K. Chesterton, 1906; alt.

St. 2, alt. Jane Parker Huber, 1985

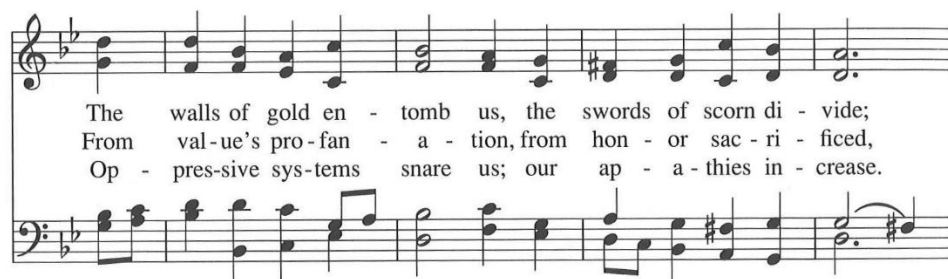
St. 3, Jane Parker Huber, 1985



1 O God of earth and al - tar, bow down and hear our cry;
 2 From all that ter - ror teach - es, from lies of pen and voice,
 3 A - wak - en us to ac - tion and forge us in - to one,



Our earth-ly rul - ers fal - ter, our peo - ple drift and die;
 From all the eas - y speech - es that make our hearts re - joice,
 de - fy - ing sect and fac - tion; O God, your will be done!



The walls of gold en - tomb us, the swords of scorn di - vide;
 From val - ue's pro - fan - a - tion, from hon - or sac - ri - ficed,
 Op - pres - sive sys - tems snare us; our ap - a - thies in - crease.



Take not your thun - der from us, but take a - way our pride.
 From sleep and from dam - na - tion, de - liv - er us, O Christ!
 Great God, in mer - cy spare us for jus - tice and for peace!

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

Jonah's Anger

4 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

Jonah Is Reproved

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

The Laborers in the Vineyard

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Lord of All Hopefulness

Jan Struther, 1901-1953

SLANE 10.11.11.12.

Traditional Irish Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948

In unison

1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,
 Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
 Your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
 Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,

Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray, Your
 Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray, Your
 Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray, Your
 Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray, Your

bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day. A - men.

For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

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.
- Call to Worship: Adapted from psalm 145
- Refrain – “Open My Heart” Text: Chinese mantra. Music: Ana Hernández. ©2013 Ana Hernández.
- Presenting Our Gifts: Doxology: Text by Thomas Ken, 1674, alt. Music attrib. Louis Bourgeois; from Trente quatre psaumes de David, Geneva, 1551.

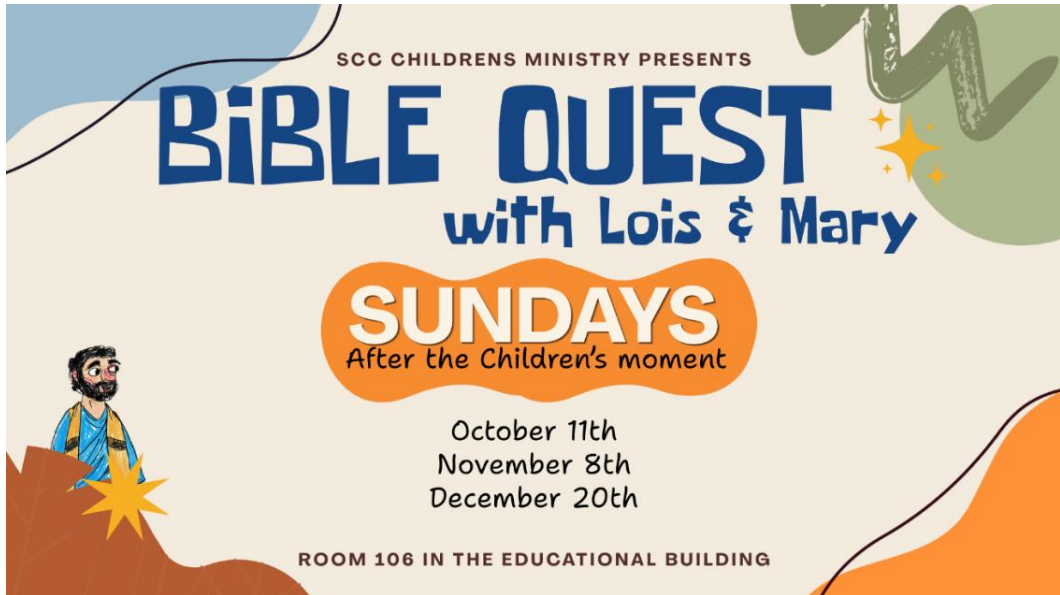
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WE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE LAND ON WHICH WE GATHER IS THE TERRITORY OF THE MOHEGAN, MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT, EASTERN PEQUOT, SCHAGHTICOKE, GOLDEN HILL PAUGUSSETT, NIPMUC, AND LENAPE PEOPLES, WHO HAVE STEWARDED THIS LAND THROUGHOUT 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/>



STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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