

UNITED CHURCH ON THE GREEN

In the Heart of New Haven, Open to all Seekers



An Open and Affirming Congregation of
the United Church of Christ



June 13, 2021

10:00AM

Pentecost 3B

We Gather as Church

*We gather this week via Zoom videoconference.
Though we are apart in body, we are close in spirit.*

To join from a computer, tablet, or smartphone, click this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/2037874195?pwd=YUdBR0FzSHNxUy9Ta3ZWk1Rvc1hEQT09>

To join from a telephone, dial 646-876-9923 and follow the prompts.

Meeting ID: 203 787 4195 Password: 06511

PRELUDE *"The Peace may be exchanged."* Dan Locklair (b. 1949)
From *Rubrics, a liturgical suite for organ in five movements*

WORDS OF WELCOME

Peace be with you... **And also with you...**

HYMN

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness
 Led by the United Church on the Green Soloists

SPIRIT

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the

Bm E7 Asus7 A7

wil - der-ness, call - ing and free,

D G A Dsus4 D

Spir - it, spir - it of rest - less-ness, stir me from

Bm G A7 D G Last time, end D

plac - id-ness, wind, wind on the sea.

D G A G

1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the
 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the
 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a
 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient

D A7 D Bm

deep, then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the
 sand, and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a
 hill, then you whis - pered in si - lence when the
 schemes, from the bond - age of sor - row the

E7 Asus7 A7 D G A

val - leys of sleep; And o - ver the e - ons you
 law and a land; When they were con - found - ed by their
 whole world was still; And down in the cit - y you
 cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom - en see vi - sions, our

G D A7 D Bm

called to each thing, "A - wake from your slum -
 i - dols and lies, then you spoke through your proph -
 called once a - gain, when you blew through your peo -
 men clear their eyes. With bold new de - ci -

G A7 D G D A7 *to Refrain*

bers and rise on your wings."
 ets to o - pen their eyes.
 ple on the rush of the wind.
 sions your peo - ple a - rise.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Many: Come to comfort us in our suffering;

One: Come to cheer us in our sorrow;

Many: Come to forgive us in our failings;

One: Come to strengthen us in our weakness;

Many: Come to inspire us in our wondering;

One: Renew our courage, O God, as we wait upon you.

Many: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Fill us with hope and joy!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Gracious God, you send us the Spirit of Love, but we become entangled in the net of hate. You send us the Spirit of Peace, but we become divided by fear and selfishness. You send us the Spirit of Joy, but we become mired in the mud of despair. As we come to you now in worship, breathe new life into us, we pray, that we might be filled with your Spirit of Life in all we say and do. Stir in us now as we pray in the quiet of our hearts...

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

We Listen for God's Word

SCRIPTURE

from the New Testament

Acts 8:26-40

Cher Balkcom

REFLECTION

Rev. Jocelyn Gardner Spencer

ANTHEM

I Believe

Mark Miller

The UCG Quartet

Julia Blue Raspe, Evanna Lai, Joe Lerangis, and Brian Robinson

We Respond

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you... ***And also with you...*** Let us pray...

- For those celebrating birthdays this week, including Jane Jervis + Kathy Rausch.
- For Angelyn Singer, as she recovers from an infection.
- In celebration and gratitude for our LGBTQ+ siblings, as many locations celebrate Pride this month.
- For all who are impacted by gun violence, and for the wisdom and will to put an end to these preventable tragedies.
- For the families of the more than 598,000 people in this nation, and over 3.7 million children of God worldwide, who have died of Covid-19.
- For the people of India, South America, and so many other places around the world who are suffering severe outbreaks beyond the capacity of their medical systems.
- For all who are ill, and for those who care for them, that they might find healing and wholeness.
- For all who struggle to find hope, peace, health, breath, food, shelter, stability, and support, and for all who are exhausted and long for relief as the crisis drags on.
- For the hope that is growing with the vaccine roll-out, and for quick and equitable distribution to all.
- For our local congregation and for our wider church, as we seek to be the Body of Christ for such a time as this.
- For the leaders of our nation and every nation, that they might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly.

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Father/Mother/God, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen....

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Peace be with you... ***And also with you...***

Call to Action

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are new to United, or feeling new, we'd love to keep in touch with you. If you wish, please share your contact info and prayer requests at www.unitednewhaven.org/connect.

OFFERING OUR RESOURCES AND OURSELVES

In anxious times like these, the work and word of the church is all the more important. Please help United continue to offer life-giving ministry by giving online through our secure website at www.unitednewhaven.org/donate.

OFFERTORY

*All Good Gifts
From Godspell*

Stephen Schwartz

Julia Blue Raspe, Evanna Lai, Joe Lerangis, and Brian Robinson

SONG OF THANKSGIVING

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

One: Blessed and blessing God, we bring you gifts from our hearts and lives. Send your Holy Spirit to make these offerings blossom and bear fruit for the flourishing of this community and of your world.

All: And bless those who give and those who long to give, that we may become living stones of mercy, grace, and justice in the house of your creation. Amen.

We Are Sent Out

HYMN

Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness

PLEADING SAVIOR

Led by the United Church on the Green Soloists

1. Spir - it, come, dis - pel our sad - ness; pierce the clouds of
2. Let your fire heal our dis - sen - sions, let your flame re -
3. Au - thor of the new cre - a - tion, come, a - noint us

na - ture's night; come, O Source of joy and glad - ness,
fine our goals, let your peace re - solve our ten - sions,
with your power. Make our hearts your hab - i - ta - tion;

breathe your life and spread your light. From the height that
send your dove to soothe our souls. Let your wind flow
with your grace our spir - its shower. Hear, O hear our

knows no mea - sure, as a gra - cious shower de - scend,
fresh with - in us, sweep - ing clean all hate and strife
sup - pli - ca - tion, bless - ed Spir - it, God of peace!

bring - ing down the rich - est trea - sure we can wish, or God can send.
from our hearts; O come and win us for a more a - bun - dant life.
Rest up - on this con - gre - ga - tion with the full - ness of your grace.

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

"The people respond – Amen!"
From *Rubrics*

Dan Locklair

Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!

Following the service, please stay for coffee hour (BYO coffee!).

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor	Rev. Jocelyn Gardner Spencer
Director of Music	Caesar Storlazzi
UCG Soloists	Julia Blue Raspe, <i>soprano</i> Evanna Lai, <i>mezzo-soprano</i> Joe Lerangis, <i>tenor</i> Brian Robinson, <i>bass-baritone</i>
Digital Deacon	June Richards
Head Sexton	William Henton

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

- June 13th:** 10:00AM Sunday Worship at United Church – Online
11:15AM Annual Meeting – Online
5:00PM Shalom UCC Worship – Online
- June 16th:** 1:00PM Staff Meeting – Online
- June 17th:** 10:00AM UCG Crafting Group – Online
(contact Jean Blue for Zoom info: jeanandjon71@gmail.com)
- June 18th:** 4:00PM Bible Study – Online
6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen – Take Out Only
- June 19th:** 6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen – Take Out Only

CHURCH NOTES

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In Person Meetings at the Church Have Been Suspended

United will be suspending in person meetings and gatherings until further notice. We will be worshipping and gathering online, so that we can keep in touch, keep each other safe and slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Pastor and the staff are reachable by email and phone message. Please reach out to us with any concerns. We will reach out to you with information on upcoming online worship services and events.

Unfortunately, we've had to cancel the Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings held at the church. To find an online meeting, go to: www.onlinegroupaa.org.

Please continue to maintain social distance, use face covering, and cleanse your hands. We will continue to lift each other in prayer.

At United Church on the Green, we seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, following in the footsteps of Jesus. We are also a progressive Protestant Christian church, a member of the nationwide United Church of Christ (UCC).

We have a long history.

- Established 1742. Meetinghouse was built in 1815.
- The Amistad Incident? Abolition of slavery? The 1970 Black Panther trials? Divestment in South Africa? United was there.

We believe God is still speaking to the world today... and we're trying to listen.

- Not a "The Bible says it. I believe it. That settles it." kind of church. Questions encouraged. (Actually, they're necessary.)
- "Open and Affirming" of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people since 1989.

We are working with God to build a better future.

- Not interested in "saving souls" or "converting the heathen." God's love is for all.
- Trying to "connect the dots" to grow peace, justice, and compassion in the world.

Staff Contacts

Rev. Jocelyn B. Gardner Spencer, *senior minister*

Caesar Storlazzi, *director of music*

Jack Russell, *director of operations*

Nicole René Atchison, *church administrator*

Nancy Lupi, *financial secretary*

Rev. Louise B. Higginbotham, *minister emerita*

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Scott, *minister emerita*

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