

*“We are all meant to shine, as children do.
We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.
It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.” - Marianne Williamson*

Welcome and Announcements

Deacon

Prelude

In a Quiet Moment
Steven Scott

Norman McFarlane

Call to Worship

We are reunited!

We are one in the Spirit!

We have made covenantal promises in hope and in love.

We have promised to strive to be the church in these days by loving God, ourselves and our neighbors with compassion and joy; to follow in the ways of Jesus, growing together as his disciples sharing the good news of love and justice; to listen with open hearts to one another's joys and fears, hopes and disappointments; and to faithfully and prayerfully discern our common life together in worship, formation, leadership and service.

We have created a new light!

Together we will burn brighter!***Gathering Hymn***They'll Know We are Christians*

#494

Message for All God's Children

Sarah Pradhan

*Joy and Concern cards will be collected by the Deacons**Sing "This Little Light of Mine" as Children proceed to Sunday School***Scripture** from *The Message*, by Eugene Peterson

Deacon

As we hear the words of scripture

Let us listen in the words for the Word of God.

Proverbs 4:18

The ways of right-living people glow with light; the longer they live, the brighter they shine.

Matthew 5:13-16

“Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you

on a light stand. Now that I have put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand – shine!
Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt
people to open up with God, this generous father in heaven.”

The grass withers and the flower fades
But the Word of God shall stand forever

Meditation “Burn Brighter” Charlie Kuchenbrod

Special Music *All Good Gifts* John Michael Tebelak/Stephen Schwartz
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zzATl9vYEc>

Prayers of the People for the World Deacon

Lord in your mercy
All: hear our prayers.

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, now and forever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* #606

Benediction

**Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
Be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;
Render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted;
Support the weak; help the afflicted;
Honor all people; love and serve God;
Rejoicing through the power of the Holy Spirit.
The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen**

***Parting Song God Be With You ‘Till We Meet Again (modified)**

**God be with You till we meet again.
By God's counsels guide, uphold you.
God will place arms all around you.
God be with you till we meet again.**

Postlude *Sing Forth to the Lord!* Norman McFarlane
David Paxton

Charlie Kuchenbrod and Becky Sielman joined South Church in 1988, not long before their wedding here. Charlie had a career in health care management until being called to the staff of the Connecticut Conference of the UCC in 2002, where he had multiple roles in finance and administration. He sort of retired in 2021, but continues to serve as a consultant for endowment management and legacy churches – churches focused on building their legacies as they come to the completion of their ministries.

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This is an Open and Affirming Church

We affirm the dignity and worth of every person, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, race, mental or physical ability or sexual orientation. We offer sacraments and rites to all who enter our circle of faith. We celebrate the gifts that each person brings to First Congregational Church and invite them to share in all areas of its service, leadership, activities, responsibilities and privileges.
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

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