

October 2, 2022

Order of Worship

10:00am

An asterisk () indicates times when you are invited to stand. Selections in **BOLD** are responses spoken by the congregation.*

Welcome and Announcements

Deacon

Prelude

Take Time to Be Holy
(based on "Holiness") arr. Gerald Peterson

Norman McFarlane

Call to Worship

Deacon

Sovereign of Creation, all that we have comes from you. When we turned away, you called us home and patiently waited our return. We gather in your presence, surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, people from every tribe and nation, every kindred and tongue, to lift our voices in praise, to be transformed into your saints, to be sent out to gather others to share the eternal banquet. Hear the praise we offer, work in us and through us.

*Gathering Hymn

When Morning Gilds the Skies

100

Stewardship Moment

Message for All God's Children

Sarah Pradhan

Joy and Concern cards will be collected by the Deacons

We Worship Together Sunday - Children are invited to stay in the sanctuary with the congregation.

Scripture

Deacon

As we hear the words of scripture

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

Psalm 67

Pew Bible p. 860

John 14: 23-29

p. 877

The grass withers and the flower fades

But the Word of God shall stand forever

Message

"The Gift of Peace"

Rev. Hyvonen

Prayers of the People for the World

Rev. Hyvonen

Lord in your mercy

All: hear our prayers.

Lord's Prayer

Rev. Hyvonen

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.

Communion Hymn of Preparation

One Bread, One Body

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The Lord's Supper

All are welcome to partake in the sacrament of communion. Please see Insert.

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

Allegro Maestoso
Flor Peeters (July 4, 1903-July 4, 1986)*

Norman McFarlane

The Sacrament of Communion

(Adapted from The New Century Hymnal)

The Invitation

This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

ALL: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We give you thanks for the gift of Jesus, our only savior.

ALL: We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, the good news who is the way, the truth, and the life. We worship and glorify you, God most holy as we say:

**Holy, holy, holy God
Of love and majesty,
The whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the highest!**

The Words of Institution

On the night of betrayal, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also after supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving you thanks, gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Let us pray together.

ALL: Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are ready.

Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, broken for you.

Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.

Choir Anthem

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart
Omer Westendorf

Choir

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray together:

ALL: Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Coffee & fellowship immediately after the service in the courtyard, weather permitting.

Our guest minister today is Rev. Randy Hyvonen. Randy was born and raised in Red Lodge, Montana. He attended Stanford 1963-67 and met wife Karen at Stanford. From '67-'69 we did voluntary service work in Berlin, Germany. 1969-73 attended Vanderbilt Divinity School. 1973-75 served two small congregations in NW Ohio. 1975-78 served as Associate Minister of a large Disciples church in Shaker Hts., Oh. 1978-83 taught (mostly English) and did a home remodeling business. 1983-93 Sr. Minister of Euclid Avenue Congregational UCC in Cleveland. 1993-2011 conference ministry – first in Ohio, then in the Pacific Northwest Conference, and finally in Montana- Northern Wyoming. Retired from that late in 2011. Served as interim Conference Minister for seven months for the Southeast Conference (2013-14).

Randy and Karen have 3 adult children: one daughter is married to a medical doctor and they have 2 children – live in Kalispell, MT. Their second daughter is a clinical psychologist and married to an artist – they have 2 children and live in Easthampton, MA; and their son lives in Spokane, WA. We moved from Montana to Loomis Village in South Hadley in February, 2015.

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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!

First Congregational Church
219 North Granby Road
Granby, CT 06035

860 653 4537
admin@firstchurchgranby.org
www.firstchurchgranby.org

South Congregational Church
242 Salmon Brook Street
P.O. Box 779
Granby, CT 06035

860 653 7289
office@southchurch.necoxmail.com
www.southchurchgranby.org

