

Welcome and Announcements

Deacon

Special Recognition**Prelude***Fairest Lord Jesus*
arr. by Randall HartsellNorman McFarlane &
Rick Handville***Call to Worship**

Valerie Tutson

Gathering HymnTake My Gifts*

381

Message for All

Valerie Tutson

*Joy and Concern cards will be collected by the Deacons**It is a "we all worship together Sunday." There will be no Sunday School. After the message for all, children are welcome to spend time in the playground or sit with their grown ups.***Scripture**

Deacon

As we hear the words of scripture

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

Proverbs 4:18 (The Message) The ways of right-living people glow with light; the longer they live, the brighter they shine.

Matthew 5:13-16 (The Message) 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**Sermon Message**

"Bringing the Light"

Valerie Tutson

Special Music*In Christ Alone*
Keith Getty & Stuart TownendNorman McFarlane &
Rick Handville***Stewardship Moment**

Bob Giles & Becky Sielman

Prayers of the People for the World

Valerie Tutson

Lord in your mercy

All: hear our prayers.

The Lord's Prayer

Valerie Tutson

**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

Valerie Tutson

**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

Divertissement (Gigue)
Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Norman McFarlane

Join us for coffee and fellowship in Fellowship Hall following Worship.

Our guest today is Val Tutson. Valerie graduated from Brown University with a self-designed major, Storytelling As a Communication's Art, and a Masters in Theatre; she received an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from Rhode Island College. Since 1991 she has traveled the country and world teaching, gathering and sharing stories and songs. Her repertoire includes folktales, personal and historical stories with an emphasis on black traditions, and first-person Bible stories. She is the founding director of the Rhode Island Black Storytellers and their annual FUNDA FEST: A Celebration of Black Storytelling.

A life-long member of the UCC (United Church of Christ) Valerie works ecumenically and has been featured at numerous National Synods and Youth Events, Conference Meetings, churches and retreats across the country, sharing her gifts and helping others to tell the stories of their faith. She volunteers each summer at Silver Lake Conference Center, an Outdoor Ministry Program in CT and part of the Southern New England UCC, as a dean for the Sing Praise Conference, working with middle schoolers to create an original Biblical musical in a week. Valerie is a member of Beneficent Congregational Church in Providence, RI.

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

