



October 6, 2019

10:00 AM

World Communion Sunday

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

“There is a communion of more than our bodies when bread is broken and wine drunk.”

— M. F. K. Fisher

If the Angels could envy, they would envy us for Holy Communion.

— Pope Pius X

*The basket of flowers are given in loving memory of
Charles C. Tyler and Hattie Atwater Tyler*

*The vase of flowers are given by Jill and Wayne Gibbs in loving memory of
Julius and Merrilyn Dahlgard and Charlie and Svea Gibbs.*

Nursery care is available for your child(ren) during the service,
please see an usher so that he or she may assist you.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

TRINITY RING

Joseph D'Eugenio

(The ringing of the chimes signals a time of silence)

GATHERING SONG

“Draw the Circle Wide!”

(sung twice)

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.

Let this be our song: no one stands alone.

Standing side by side, draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. James Campbell &

The Rev. Alison McCaffrey

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

One: And the table will be wide.
And the welcome will be wide.
And the arms will open wide to gather us in.
And our hearts will open wide to receive.

All: **And we will come as children who trust there is enough.**
And we will come unhindered and free.
And our aching will be met with bread.
And our sorrow will be met with wine.

One: And we will open our hands to the feast without shame.
And we will turn toward each other without fear.
And we will give up our appetite for despair.
And we will taste and know of delight.

All: **And we will become bread for a hungry world.
And we will become drink for those who thirst.
And the blessed will become the blessing.
And everywhere will be the feast!**

***HYMN**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty, 136

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: Holy One, we will not find that needed justice in our apathy; we will not find that elusive wholeness with our quarreling; we will not find our hoped for unity with our doctrines; we will not find our misplaced love with our hating; we will not find that rest we crave in our overflowing planners; we will not find the peace you offer in our well nursed grudges.

All: **But we will find you in the brokenness of the Bread and in the breaking of our hearts; we will find you when we drain the Cup, refill it with our gifts, and offer it to a little child; we will find you when we squeeze closer together, making room at the Table for all your people.**

A time of silent confession.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: No matter who we are or how far we have wandered, we are all welcomed and embraced at this Table of Grace.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

*GLORIA

Glo - ri-a! Glo - ri-a! In ex-cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ri-a! Glo - ria-a! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

During the Gloria, children in PreK-5 please process to the front of the Sanctuary to meet Mrs. Marchand and leave for church school.

*EXCHANGE OF PEACE

One: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Please greet those immediately around you with words and sign of reconciliation and peace.

CALL TO OFFERING

If you pledge electronically, give periodically or by another method and wish to show your support of the church, place the yellow "I Give" card (located in pew) in the offering plate.

OFFERTORY

H. Friedell

Draw Us In The Spirit's Tether

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, For when humbly in Thy name,
Two or three are met together Thou are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now Thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit Thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of Thee,
That by caring, helping, giving we may true disciples be.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve Thee faithfully.

— Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

***GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 26:17-30

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so." While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

RESPONDING

*HYMN

One Bread, One Body, 689

INVITATION TO CHRIST’S TABLE

This is Christ’s table: Open to everyone, including children! If you desire to grow in loving relationship with Christ, then please feel free to receive the bread and cup. It has been prepared for you and for all! (Gluten Free crackers & grape juice are used so that all may participate freely.)

RESPONSIVE CALL TO PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: It is pure delight to be in your presence. It is amazing to think of joining with Christians all over the world to celebrate the new life we all enjoy in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You have united Christians from every nation across the globe into one family.

You have given us brothers and sisters who live on every continent; who speak every language imaginable.

You have given us brothers and sisters who think like us and get along with us, and even some who get on our nerves every single day.

And you love us all as your family and expect us to love one another as family.

And so, as your family on earth, together with the members of your family in heaven, we join together and give to you our unending song of praise:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of
hosts. Heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho -

One: No one is holy but you, O Lord. And no one is as faithful as your Son Jesus Christ who taught us the transforming experience that is ours when we see, know, and love; and who taught us to pray with these words saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: On that last night, Jesus surrounded himself with those whom he knew would betray, deny, and desert him; yet, he washed their feet and enjoyed an evening of feasting with them.

Taking bread, he gave thanks to you broke the bread, and gave a portion to everyone present saying: “This is my body broken for you. Whenever you eat this bread, remember me.”

In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

One: Holy Spirit, make holy these gifts of bread and cup; and each person here.

Pour out your Spirit on us and upon all people everywhere who gather at your table of grace.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at your heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

We will receive the Communion elements by intinction, the ancient practice of partially dipping the cracker into the juice, then consuming it. Each pew will

be directed to come forward to the station closest to you where the Deacons or Pastors will offer the elements to you to be eaten individually. Please then return to your pew. For those wishing to receive the elements in your pew, the Deacons or Pastors will come to you.

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

All: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this holy communion – oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and risen life that never ends. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SERVING

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

***HYMN**

Sing a New Church, 577

***SENDING FORTH**

FELLOWSHIP AND FOOD

Fellowship is joyfully hosted by the Christmas Fair committee.

(Please exit Sanctuary near the pulpit, take a left and head straight down to the Parish Hall.)

Host

Phyllis Balsler

Greeters

Jan and Chris Cowles, Kerrie Dunne

Prayers of Intercession for October 6, 2019

Joys and concerns are received every Sunday, except the first of the month. You may request a prayer using the prayer cards in the pews. Ushers will collect the prayer cards during the first hymn. Simply raise your hand, and the ushers will come collect your prayer card.

Philip Bradford, Norma Carl (Roy Pritchard's sister), Ford Cole, Ruth Coleman, Richard Cushing, Joy Deegan, Annie Donato (Barb Grudzias's friend), Craig Gagne, Faye Gagne, Carol Gardell, Richard Grudzias, Richard Harmer, Eleanor Holmes (Jan Holmes mother), Rosemarie Gadsby (Peter Gadsby's wife), Ruth Havlick, Joy Hostage, Ginny & Jim Humphrey, John Kile (Claudia's husband), David Leoni (Jackie Cole's stepfather), Emil Mack (Lisa Daly's father), Ed McElligott, Ron & Sheila McReavy (friends of the Sellati's and Euerle's), Jackie Parker (David's mother), Liisa Petersen (Mariann Durocher's sister), Helen Raynor, Marinda Shelton (Sharon Graver's mother), Avis Triplett (Martha Triplett Strollo's stepmother), Fred Turner, Sister Mary Bernard Wiecezak (Barb Grudzias's friend).

Prayers for Those Deployed:

U.S. Army: Adam Ellis; Sgt. Nicholas Carboni, Vaughn Guetens, 2LT

U.S. Navy: AT1 Benjamin Todd Fritz

Prayers for Members in Discernment:

Jordan Rebholz, Phoebe Hall

New Haven Association of UCC Congregations Prayer Cycle:
First Church of Christ, Bethany

Prayer Net

The Prayer Net is an email prayer ministry group. You may send any prayer requests to prayernet@cheshirecongregational.org and the prayer group is notified and prayers are offered for your need. All requests are considered confidential. You may also join this group and become a prayer. Please email Pastor Alison for more details at Alisonm@firstcheshire.org.

CALENDAR

Sun., Oct. 6

Fellowship hosted by the Christmas Fair Committee

8:00 a.m. Early Worship with Communion, Chapel

10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

6:30 p.m. Youth Group, Whiting House

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop #92 Committee, Library

Mon., Oct. 7

3:00 p.m. United Girls Choir, Parish Hall

6:15 p.m. Girl Scouts #60302, Parish Hall

Tue., Oct. 8

10:30 a.m. Staff meeting, Chapel

2:00 p.m. Parish Care, Library

6:00 p.m. Cub Scout 114 Pack, Den 6, Room 9

7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees, Chapel

Wed., Oct. 9

9:30 a.m. Al Anon, Parish Hall

12:00 p.m. Women's AA, Parish Hall

12:45 p.m. Caring Crafts, Parlor

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir practice, Music Room

Thu., Oct. 10

10:00 a.m. "How We Got the Bible" Bible Study, Chapel

7:00 p.m. "How We Got the Bible" Bible Study, Room 11

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Troop 92, Parish Hall

7:00 p.m. Nominating Committee, Room 9

Sun., Oct. 13

Fellowship hosted by Caring Crafts

10:00 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary

1:00 p.m. Cadette Girl Scouts #60454, Room 9

Big Changes Proposed for First Church!!

Curious? Talk to Anthony DePaolo or Jim Louys.

Worship

Interested in Joining First Church?

For those who are considering membership, a brief informational session will be held in the Chapel following the 10:00 a.m. service on October 20 or October 27. Those who choose to join are cordially invited to attend an orientation on Wednesday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m. Thank you. Betty Pritchard – betty.pritchard@icloud.com. New Member Sunday is Sunday, November 17.

Great Cloud of Witnesses Window Project: Your Photos are Needed

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us...” – Hebrews 12:1

Who inspires you in your faith journey? A parent, grandparent? A friend, teacher, church leader? Someone known to many, or someone known only to you? Someone who is living now or who has passed on?

For the month of November, our sanctuary windows will be lit with the sun's light shining through photos of these saints, those living and those who have passed on.

You are invited to share your photos for this project now. You can either bring in the photo (we'll copy it on the spot), or email it, or take a photo of the photo and email that. Photos will then be copied onto a transparency, sized, and placed into one of the 800 panes in our sanctuary windows. Please email or bring your photo to Pastor Alison at alisonm@firstcheshire.org.

An **Action Team** to help prep and place the photos is now being organized. Please email Pastor Alison to offer your help alisonm@firstcheshire.org.

Outreach

Lights of Hope: November 9

The First Congregational Church will be lighting up the night in support of Cheshire's Lights of Hope. We will need your help setting up luminaries on the church green. You may come on your own or with your family, the more help the better! Please arrive around 12:00 noon and we

will be finished no later than 3:00 pm. Even if you can't spend the entire afternoon, any time you can volunteer would be greatly appreciated! Any questions please contact Beth Nesbit Barnes at (203)605-3620.

Cheshire Food Pantry specific needs

Tuna, elbow macaroni, pasta, jar pasta sauce, lasagna noodles, peanut butter and jelly. These items and any other donations can be left in the small shopping carriage in the Parlor. Thank you for donations!

Bikes For Kids of CT has about 200 bikes, all sizes and in good conditions they are willing to send to the Bahamas to help those in need after Hurricane Dorian. However, they are looking for someone to be responsible for the shipping. I'm looking for anyone with any experience in making shipments by sea to other countries. If you can help, please contact Peter Ploch at pploch@aol.com

Caring

Bereavement Group: October 17 – January 2

Coping with the loss of a loved one has no set time frame. There are moments when we seem to be managing just fine and then there are moments when we continue to struggle. Please come join us as we support one another in a shared loss, yet knowing that our grief experiences are unique to us. Laughter and tears are equally welcome. This group is facilitated by trained Stephen Ministers, held in our Chapel. The group will run for 10 consecutive Thursdays, beginning October 17, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. There will be no group held the week of Thanksgiving. **Registration is required** - please contact the church office at (203)272-5323 x8. There is no charge for this offering to the community.

Faith Formation

Fall Thursday Bible Study: Daytime and Evening Options

Thursday Bible Study meets in the chapel at 10 a.m. **and 7:00 p.m. in Room 11 (new this year)**. The study will be facilitated by Gary Rowe. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Rowe (email - garysrowe240@gmail.com; phone (203)-631-0064 or Marianne Eagleson (email -marianne.eagleson@cox.net; phone (203)-271-2850. Everyone is welcome.

Confirmation Orientation and Potluck: October 27

All 9th graders (and any others who may have missed it in the past) are invited to join us for a 20 week journey called "Confirm Not Conform."

A mailing will go out early in the fall with more details. But in the meantime, please make plans to attend the Orientation and Potluck on Sunday, October 27, 5 PM in the Parish Hall. And feel free to call Pastor James with any questions.

Speaker Series: October 29

A Bird Specialist Reminisces About Birds and Specialties,

October 29, 7:00 PM in Parish Hall.

Speaker (and church member) Dr. Robert Giddings is a well-known avian specialist and founder of the Kensington Bird and Animal Hospital.

Save the Date! November 3

Fall Costume Party for kids infants to 4th grade

Our high school youth group is excited to lead an event for our younger kids! There will be fall themed crafts, a church scavenger hunt for treats, and dinner for the whole family. *So don't even think about putting those costumes away on Oct 31st!* More details coming soon.

Women's Monthly Book Club

The club meets on the first Monday of the month, at various locations for book discussion. Books are usually picked at the beginning of the previous month and discussed the next month. If you are interested in joining or getting more information, please contact Leah Sanders - lbsanders@hotmail.com.

Other

Alchemy: October 19

Alchemy, the vocal chamber ensemble of the GMChorale, will offer "Soirées Musicales" on Saturday, October 19 at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. The concert showcases the versatility of this ensemble in performances of accompanied and a cappella choral music, and recalls the elegance of musical gatherings in earlier days though the singing of music that was meant to be performed in social settings that were intimate and informal. The featured work on these programs is the Neue Liebeslieder waltzes by Johannes Brahms, virtuosic settings of love poems for solo voices, chorus, and piano four hands (that is, two pianists playing one piano). The GMChorale's long-time pianist Allan Conway will be joined at the keyboard by Artistic Director Joseph D'Eugenio, and members of Alchemy will perform the vocal solos. The program also includes choral music by Giacchino Rossini, Randall Thompson, Edward Elgar, Rene Clausen, and others.

Morning Worship, Church School (Prek-K-Grade 8) & Nursery

Sundays at 10:00 AM

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. James Campbell, Senior Minister
jamesc@firstcheshire.org

The Rev. Alison McCaffrey, Associate Minister
alisonm@firstcheshire.org

Joseph D'Eugenio, Director of Music
joed@firstcheshire.org

Melissa Clark, Music Assistant and Section Leader

Sarah Himmelstein, Section Leader

Elizabeth Adesso, Student Assistant Accompanist

Dawn Marchand, Acting Director for Christian Education
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Todd Skrzyniarz, Director of Youth Ministry
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