

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME OCTOBER 15, 2017

\* *ALL WHO ARE ABLE ARE INVITED TO STAND.*

**GATHERING**

*O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride, and strife. Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet, but rugged and strong enough to turn back the tempter’s power. God, make the door of this house the gateway to Thine eternal kingdom. Amen.* **--The Gathering at St. Stephen’s Wolbrook, England**

**PRELUDE** Selections from “*Suite du deuxième ton”* Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird

Minister: All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, so thank our God

# All: For joy in living

Minister: And moonlight on the darkest night; **All: For wisdom to walk the right path** Minister: And peace to calm anxious worry;

# All: All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,

Minister: So let your song arise and give thanks for God's love.

**\* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 478** *“Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven”* LAUDA ANIMA

# PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) Rev. Paul E. Gilmore Holy and merciful God, we confess that, in a culture that places so much emphasis on external beauty, outward signs of success and "having it all together," we struggle to live from the inside

**out. We feel the pressure to look and act like something we are not, and all too often we succumb. We don our masks, pretend that things are fine when they are not, and keep our vulnerabilities hidden safely away. O God, remind us again of the healing power of your love. Call us again into the light where truth and grace shine. Take our guilt, shame and fear and in their place renew us with your forgiveness and acceptance. For the sake of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**KYRIE ELEISON** James MacMillan

# DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

**\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** No. 579 *The Gloria Patri*

# Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without End. Amen.**

**SHARING OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY**

Please sign the card and pass it to your neighbor. As you pass it back to the center, take note of who is here so we can become better acquainted. Visitors, please give your address, telephone, and e-mail information.

# A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Children are invited to Sunday’s Cool, please bring your buck and a can offering with you)

# T H E W O R D

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (unison) Jeannie Hart O God, your Word is more precious than fine gold. As we turn to your Scripture, send your Holy

Spirit upon us to infuse your Word with truth and grace -- so that the good news of your love would shine before our eyes... so that we cannot help but respond with wonder, faith and trust. Amen.

**FIRST LESSON** Exodus 32:1-4 (OT page 78)

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

# People: Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM** *“Rejoice in the Lord alway”* Anon. 16th Century Rejoice in the Lord alway and again I say rejoice. Come bless the Lord, draw near to worship Christ the Lord and bless his name, His holy name, declaring he is good. Oh, that men would praise him, would praise his name, 'til the ends of the earth.

**SECOND LESSON** Philippians 4:1-9 (NT pages 198-199)

Minister: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

# People: Thanks be to God.

**SERMON** *“When God Goes Absent”* Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird

# R E S P O N D I N G T O T H E W O R D

**\* HYMN No. 483** *“Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”* MIT FREUDEN ZART **MISSION OF THE CHURCH –** Stewardship Jennifer Gulden **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

# People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray...

# LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

**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, forever. Amen.**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES**

**OFFERTORY** *“We Are All One In Mission”* Kevin Riehle We all are one in mission, we all are one in call*,* our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all. A

single great commission compels us from above to plan and work together that all may know God’s love. We all are called for service to witness in God’s name. Our ministries are different our purpose is the same, to touch the lives of others by God’s surprising grace, til ev’ry folk and nation may feel God’s

warm embrace. Now let us be united and let our song be heard. Now let us be united by God’s redeeming word. We all are one in mission, we all are one in call, our varied skills united by Christ the Lord of all.

\* **DOXOLOGY** 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.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**S E N D I N G**

* **HYMN No. 538** *“Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing”* SICILIAN MARINERS
* **CHARGE AND BLESSING** (Please be seated for the Choral Response & the Ringing of the Church Bell) **CHORAL RESPONSE** *“There is a Spirit of Love in this Place”* Mark Miller **RINGING THE CHURCH BELL**
* **POSTLUDE** *“Fanfare”* Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

# TODAY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Welcome to the Service of Worship for the Lord’s Day. Parents of **infants through age four** are encouraged to take their children to the Nursery School classrooms during our services. **Students in Pre-K-7th grade** should follow their teachers to the Common Room.

**Today in Sunday’s Cool** we will explore the story of the Ruth, and how God calls us to stick together and love and care for our family! We will explore this story with food fun – making cheese and pretzel “people” that can literally stick together, and a “family circle” of cinnamon rolls. Please bring your buck and a can and join us. **In the Barn,** our tweens will explore how to live as guests at God’s Party and discuss the Parable of the Wedding Feast from Matthew.

Teachers assisting with preK-4th grade Spark Rotations today – Kristie Godina, Laurel Carlson, Katrina Parkhill, Jan Sulkowski, and Lindsay Tucker; 5-7th grade in the Barn for Feasting on the Word with Traci Pascarella and Kristina Woods.

**Youth News:** What is happening at FPC for our ESYG (4th- 5th graders and their friends),

MSYG (6th-8th graders and their friends), and HSYG (9th-12th graders and their friends). All are welcome!

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| **ESYG (4th- 5th)** | **MSYG (6th-8th)** | **HSYG (9th-12th)** |
|  | **10/15** 4-6pm Harvestfest and Bonfire | **10/15** 4-6pm Harvestfest and Bonfire |
|  | **10/29** 11:30am Corn Maze & Hayride@Outhouse Orchards in N. Salem | **10/29** 11:30am Corn Maze &Hayride@Outhouse Orchards in N. Salem |
| **11/10 6-9:15pm** Saxe 5/6 Musical Aladdin anddinner on the town | **11/3-11/5** 30-hr Famine Weekend:Food Pantry, GLOW at SkyZone(Fri) Habitat Work Day (Sat), and FIB stuffing (Sun) | **11/3-11/5** 30-hr Famine Weekend:Food Pantry; GLOW at SkyZone (Fri) Habitat Work Day (Sat), and FIB stuffing (Sun) |

**Greeters**: Nancy Helle and Barbara Wentzel; **Worship Coordinator:** Jim Ely; **Ushers:** Peter Bayer, Janet Lanaway, John Lanaway, Sarah Robinson; **Cross Bearer:** Armin Thies; **Lay Reader:** Jeannie Hart; **Musicians:** The First Presbyterian Church Choir

**Flowers** in the Sanctuary are in loving memory of Elaine Foster from the First Presbyterian Church Choir.

**A Memorial Service for Hudson Stoddard** will be held on Saturday, November 25 at 11 a.m. followed by a reception in the Common Room.

**Let us keep in our thoughts and prayers: *Continued concerns:*** Neil Coakley; Ann Depuy; Anita Gilmore; Graham Harden; Spencer Hinds; Vince Lombardi; Doris Mierendorf; The Stricos family (friends of Joe and Diana Ruszkowski); John Voorhies. *The Abo Noktah family (our Syrian refugees):* Khaldoun (father), Khawla Alzob (mother), daughters Hanin and Zain, and sons Yaman and Ahmed.

**Flower Memorials:** If you wish to have flowers in the sanctuary to celebrate an anniversary, a baptism, a birthday, or to memorialize a loved family member or friend please call Barbara Wentzel, Flower Coordinator, at 203-966-5402 or email at barbarawentzel@mac.com.

**All Saint’s Sunday, November 5.** During our 10 a.m. liturgy, we will remember those members and friends who have passed away from November 2016 to November 2017. Following the worship service, our candlelight processional will be led out of the sanctuary to the Memorial Garden and Columbarium. Please call the church office (203-966-0002) if you have names of loved ones you would like to include in the liturgy that day.

“To Learn Continuously” **Tuesday Morning Biblical Study ●** September 19 - October 31 - 11:00am-12:30pm in the Common Room. **Taught by the Rev. Paul E. Gilmore with an assist from the Rev. Adam Hamilton (via video & book).** *Credo* is the first word of the Apostles’ Creed in Latin. It means “I believe.” This study will help us to examine what it is that we believe as Christians, why we believe it, and why it matters, making use of the Apostles’ Creed as a guide. Most likely, originally intended as a baptismal creed, the Apostles’ Creed will help us to explore the deeply held beliefs that have the power to motivate Christians to live out their baptismal vows in lives of action, sacrifice, and service.

# Pastors’ Forum – Today – Following Worship with Michael Turpin Healthcare 2017: Beginning of the End or End of the Beginning?

With all the acrimony and bitter debate in Congress over the Affordable Care Act and its perceived shortcomings, there has been a universal cry for change in our private and public health systems. While everyone has an opinion on healthcare, it often breaks down beyond each person's ability to pay and personal experiences.

Most Americans don't understand the differences between Medicare, Medicaid, Public Exchanges and Employer Sponsored Healthcare. Heated debate is certain when we discuss whether healthcare is a right or a privilege, how we can rein in costs, who it might affect and what the cost is for remaining on our current course.

We've asked Michael Turpin, former CEO of Oxford Healthcare and United HealthCare Northeast to offer an explanation of the politics, social issues and opportunities we have to fix and improve healthcare. With so many dependent on Medicare and Medicaid as well as 30M uninsured Americans, the need is great. However, we have finite resources and infinite demand. Who plays Solomon to make some of the tougher choices to rein in costs in the next twenty years is of interest to everyone.

A self-professed, health executive in recovery, Michael Turpin relies on humor, candor and some private stories about his experience running a region generating over $2B in revenues. He brings an interesting and humanistic lens to an industry that is certain to change in our lifetimes. The more informed we are as a congregation and as consumers, the more influential we can be as the national debate drags on. Where we have information and understand the intended and unintended consequences of change, we can look past the rhetoric and dystopian predictions of what lays in store for healthcare and participate in helping shape the debate.

Mike is a frequent speaker and columnist on the subject of healthcare inside and outside the USA.

**Sunday, October 15 at 2:30 pm.** Please join the Congregational Life Committee for a group hike the afternoon of October 15 at 2:30pm. We will stroll through Watson-Symington Woodlands Trail, sandwiched between Wellesley Drive and West Road - parking available on Wellesley Lane. Leaf peep, have apple cider, and enjoy the glorious autumn afternoon together. Please RSVP to Tina. Parishioners may not be familiar with the New Canaan Land Trust, founded in 1967 to promote the preservation of open space in New Canaan. Since then, they have preserved approximately 400 acres of forest, meadow and wetlands across 70 different parcels. Many properties are open to the public with trails that allow visitors to enjoy the natural beauty and serenity of these protected areas.

**Calling all families! Harvestfest is here! Please join us today** from 4-6 p.m. on the back lawn for pumpkin decorating (BYOP), delicious food, s'mores and more! The High School and Middle School youth groups will lead the younger kids on a Spooky Scavenger Hunt around the church grounds. Admission is $15 per family.

**No Gift Too Small!** The Bell Tower Society welcomes gifts and bequests of all sizes. Every dollar given makes a difference in serving the long-term welfare of our church. If you have questions about remembering the church in your estate plans, please contact Peter Flournoy in the church office.



**Cents-ability:** On September 3, we collected $57. Our total collection since we began Cents-ability at our church in November 2011 is $17,643. Thank you for your awareness and generous response to hunger. If you would like more information on Cents-ability or are in need of a Cents-ability cup, please see Robin Lewis. Remember to fill up your Cents-ability cup ‘til it runneth over! **Our next collection is November 5.**

**New Canaan Food Pantry:** Items in need now due to low/no stock are Brownie Mix, Mayonnaise, Canned chicken, Chicken broth, Pasta Sauce, Cookies, Crackers, Taco kits, Pancake Mix - add water only, Pasta Sides. **No beans or soup are needed at this time.** Please drop these items in the shopping cart at the back of the Sanctuary and Robin Lewis and Paul Hartley will make sure they are delivered to the New Canaan Food Pantry.

The First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan is privileged to have the opportunity to prepare and serve dinner on the first Saturday of each month at the **New Covenant House of Hospitality** in Stamford. This is a rewarding way to give your time and efforts. We are seeking volunteers for these upcoming dates: - November 4, December 2, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5 and June 2 - to help prepare meals (2-4 pm) or serve meals (4-6 pm). To sign up, or if you have any questions, please contact Glenn Mierendorf at glennmierendorf@gmail.com, or 203- 564-3448. Also, if you are interested in being part of the soup kitchen shopper team, please let Tina in the church office know. Thank you!



# SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT 06840 Tel.: 203-966-0002 // web page: [www.fpcnc.org](http://www.fpcnc.org/)

**10:00 AM Worship; Rev. Kibbie Laird preaching** 10:15 AM Sunday’s Cool Classes for Grades PreK-7 11:15 AM Coffee Hour

Calling all musicians! Do you play an instrument? Do you sing?

You are invited to share your talents all year round! We have many opportunities for you to share your talents throughout the year. We offer:

Chancel Choir (teens through adult)

- Adults rehearse Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:30;

- Teens (grades 8 and up) rehearse Sunday mornings from 11:15am-12:00pm

Carol Choir (grades 3-7): Rehearses Wednesdays from 5:00-6:30

Cherub Choir (grades preK-2)

* Rehearses Wednesdays from 5:00-5:45
* Rehearses Sundays from 11:15-12:00

Handbells (adults)

Rehearses on Thursdays from 6:00-7:00

Instrumental ensembles

Any instruments in a solo or small group are rehearsed throughout the week and year

Please see Victoria or email her at victoria@fpcnc.org if you are interested in participating. Let's give back to God and share the talents God has given us!

11:15 AM Cherub Choir 11:15 AM Chrysalis Choir **11:30 AM Pastor’s Forum**

# 2:30 PM Group Hike@Symington-Watson Trails 4:00 PM Harvestfest and Bonfire

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 16**

2:00 PM Meditation Group

6:30 PM Purple Heather Dancers

# TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

9:30 AM Leadership Team

# 11:00 AM Tuesday Morning Biblical Study

11:30 AM Gentlemen Songsters 7:00 PM Session

8:00 PM Men’s A.A.

# WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

10:00 AM Music Librarians 10:00 AM Dorcas Sewing Group 10:30 AM Pastoral Care Team 5:00 PM Carol Choir

5:00 PM Cherub Choir

5:00 PM Confirmation Class

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

3:30 PM Special Church 6:00 PM English Handbells

7:30 PM FPC Choir

# SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

9:15 AM A.A. (closed discussion) 10:30 AM A.A. (open discussion)

4:00 PM Concert and Autumn Harvest IceBreaker!

# SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

**10:00 AM Worship with Special Church Celebration Rev. Paul E. Gilmore preaching**

10:15 AM Sunday’s Cool Classes for Grades PreK-7 11:15 AM Coffee Hour

11:15 AM Cherub Choir 11:15 AM Chrysalis Choir 11:15 AM Board of Deacons

11:15 AM New Members’ Class 11:30 AM Stewardship Training Class

**30th Anniversary of Special Church: Celebrations on Oct 22nd and Nov 2nd.** Please join in celebrating the 30th anniversary of Special Church on Sunday, October 22 at 10am worship. Coffee Hour following. All are invited to attend Special Church with us on Thursday, November 2, from 3:30-5pm in the Common Room. There will be refreshments, music and friendship in the celebration of our 30th Anniversary.



Our fall **New Member Inquirers classes** begin **Sunday 10/22 from 11:15-12:00** in the Common Room immediately following Coffee Hour. This 3-week series is open to all members of FPC, in addition to prospective new members, and will focus on the following:

***Week 1 (10/22)***: "History of our faith: What is Presbyterianism?" ~ Find out how our faith began worldwide and in the United States. Discover answers to questions such as: Who was John Calvin? What is the Book of Order? How is the governance of the Presbyterian church set up and why?

***Week 2 (10/29)***: "History of FPCNC: How and Why We Got Here" ~ Learn about the founding of this church, FPCNC's history of civil and human rights efforts, the ministers and music history of our church, and how our church contributes to the spiritual life of this community. A tour of the facilities and grounds will be part of this class.

***Week 3 (11/5)***: "What it Means to be a Member ~ Believing and Belonging" ~ Learn about how you can become a member of our vibrant faith community, including worship, stewardship, opportunities for service and involvement, fellowship events, children and youth activities, and more!

***Week 4 (11/12)***: "Welcoming New Members" ~ Please join us for breakfast at 9:15 in the Common Room with the Elders and Deacons of the church as we prepare to welcome you into our church family during the service.

Childcare will be provided. We hope to see you at one or all of these classes!

**The next Goodwill Collection Saturday is: October 28th, from 9am-1pm.** Donations of clothing, furniture and household items in good condition are sought and receipts for tax purposes will be available. Bring donations to the parking lot of First Presbyterian

Church New Canaan, 178 Oenoke Ridge. Goodwill Industries provides vocational services for people with disabilities and special needs. Over 60 percent of its operating revenue comes from the sale of donated goods in its retail stores. For more information, go to [www.gwct.org](http://www.gwct.org/)

**OUR MINISTERS**

The Entire Congregation

**OUR PASTORS**

The Rev. Paul E. Gilmore, Pastor

The Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird, Associate Pastor for Children, Youth and Families

**OUR STAFF**

Victoria Shields, Director of Music / Sherry Tate, Cherub Choir director Michelle Olsen, Church Administrator / Tina St. Armand, Office Manager Erika Hagan, Administrative Assistant to Children and Youth Ministries

Kuky and Andres Pereira, Operations/Security Managers / Edgar Torres, Day Sexton

**THE SESSION**

Our Pastors

Scott Beyer, *Clerk of Session*

George Benington, *Bell Tower Society*

Sue Benko, *Communications*

Laurel Carlson, *Youth Ministries*

Carole Clarkson, *Worship, Music and Arts*

Linda Ferguson, *Nominating*

Lisa Gifford, *Congregational Life*

Jennifer Gulden, *Personnel*

Julie Hoffman, *Member-At-Large* Freia Mierendorf, *Co-Youth* Glenn Mierendorf*, Outreach* Dede McEvoy, *Strategic Planning* Andy Petitjean, *Finance*

Lynn Quinn, *Adult Education* Julie Reeves, *Membership Involvement* Kevin Thomson, *Advisory Committee*

Spencer Reeves, *Co-Youth*

Jenny Volanakis, *Children's Ministries*

Barbara Wentzel, *Stewardship*

**THE DEACONS**

Jen and Steve Van de Graaf, *Co-Moderators*

Carson Allsteadt, *Co-Youth*

Erica Bergmans, *Member-At-Large* Mary Jane Bolin, *Senior Lunch* Peg Bull, *Flock Program*

William Dooley, *Co-Youth*

Cindy Hagopian, *Inspirica*

Karen Hanson, *Memorial Services and Receptions*

Beth Hersam, *Flowers and Cards* Chris Kniffin, *Member-At-Large* Nichole LaBadie, *Co-Youth*

Linda Martin, *Baptisms; Flock Program* Sarah Robinson, *Pastoral Care Team* Kristen Rodgers, *Member-At-Large* Kathleen Servidea, *Member-At-Large* Elizabeth Stuart, *Flowers and Cards* Ashley Walker, *Co-Youth*

*Rev. T. Guthrie Speers, Jr., Pastor Emeritus - Mrs. Marilyn J. Ballantine, Minister of Music Emerita*