



First Presbyterian Church  
of New Canaan

7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 13, 2018

\* ALL WHO ARE ABLE ARE INVITED TO STAND.

**GATHERING**

Please prayerfully allow the silent, sacred space of the sanctuary and the quiet stirrings of the Spirit to prepare your heart and mind for worship.

**PRELUDE**

*“Adagio”*

Frank Bridge

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Minister: Praise God, who has raised Jesus Christ to reign in power!

**People: Praise God, who sends the Spirit to empower the church.**

Minister: Praise God, who gives us good and varied gifts to love and serve one another.

**People: Praise God with trumpet and song, with dance and prayer.**

Minister: Let us worship God, the source of all good things!

\* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 145** *“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”*

MARION

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION(unison)**

Rev. Christopher G. Tate

**Lord God, forgive us. Doing your will does not always flow naturally. Your way is sometimes unclear. Your direction is often unpopular. Your path is seldom profitable. Bad habits die hard. Good habits form slowly. Give us ears and minds to hear your still, small, but persistent voice. Create in us hearts and wills open to your sometimes surprising leading. We pray in the name of Jesus our risen Lord. Amen.**

**TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION...**

**KYRIE ELEISON**

James MacMillan

Lord, have mer-cy, Lord\_have mer-cy. Christ have  
mer-cy, Christ\_have mer-cy. Lord have mer-cy, Lord\_have mer-cy.

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Minister: This is the testimony of the Spirit: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

**People: Thanks be to God! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia!**

\* **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.

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

Ian and Chelsea Palmer present their son, Maddox Leo Palmer for baptism.

**WELCOME**

**With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Maddox Leo into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.**

**CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO SUNDAY'S COOL ROTATION**

(Please bring your buck and a can offering with you to Sunday's Cool)

**THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)**

Megan Wunderlich

**God of power and might, love and hope, help us to hear your word that we may be empowered to share your blessings with others in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** John 17:1a, 10-19 (NT page 111)

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*"Christ Hath a Garden"*

Gerald Near

Christ hath a garden walled around, A Paradise of fruitful ground, Chosen by love and fenced by grace  
From out the world's wide wilderness. Like trees of spice his servants stand, There planted by his mighty  
hand; By Eden's gracious streams, that flow To feed their beauty where they grow. Awake, O wind of  
heav'n and bear Their sweetest perfume through the air: Stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom, Till the  
beloved Master come: That he may come, and linger yet Among the trees that he hath set; That he may  
evermore be seen To walk amid the springing green.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON** Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 (NT pages 118-119)

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*"What about the Rejects?"*

Rev. Mary Marple Thies

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\* **HYMN No. 369**

*"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"*

I'M GONNA LIVE

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: 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***“Judge Eternal”*

Gerre Hancock

Judge eternal, throned in splendor, Lord of lords and King of kings, with thy living fire of judgment purge this land of bitter things; solace all its wide dominion with the healing of thy wings. Still the weary folk are pining for the hour that brings release, and the city's crowded clangor cries aloud for sin to cease; and the homesteads and the woodlands plead in silence for their peace. Crown, O God, thine own endeavor; cleave our darkness with thy sword; feed all those who do not know thee with the richness of thy word; cleanse the body of this nation through the glory of the Lord.

\* **DOXOLOGY WITH ALLELUIAS**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;****Praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia!****Praise God above, ye heavenly host.****Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION****SENDING**\* **HYMN No. 144***“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!”*

HYFRYDOL

\* **CHARGE AND BLESSING** (Please be seated for the Choral Response & the Ringing of the Church Bell)**CHORAL RESPONSE***“Irish Blessing”*

David Conte

**RINGING THE CHURCH BELL**\* **POSTLUDE***“Allegro” from Concerto in A, BWV 593*

J.S. Bach

**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 preK-7** should follow their teacher to the Common Room.

**Today in Sunday’s Cool:** all grades (PreK-7<sup>th</sup>) will come together for Children’s Chapel with the Rev. Chris Tate.

**Greeters:** The Quinn family

**Worship Coordinator:** Kevin Sheridan

**Ushers:** George Benington, Peggy Hooker, Marlene Powers, Wendy Stahl

**Cross Bearer:** Molly Wunderlich

**Lay Reader:** Megan Wunderlich

**Musicians:** The First Presbyterian Church Choir

**Congratulations to Ian and Chelsea on the baptism of their son, Maddox Leo Palmer;** grandson of Howard and Anne Palmer, Norman and Kathy Walker, Linda Walker (deceased).

**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](mailto:barbarawentzel@mac.com).

**Memorial Services:** Rae Ackerly, Friday, May 18 at 10am; Ann Depuy, Saturday, June 2 at 1pm.

**Let us keep in our thoughts and prayers: *Continued concerns:*** Grace Chung; Neil Coakley; Joe Colella; John Edwards; Graham Harden; Bob Jackson; William Boyd Kegg; Vince Lombardi; Jim Mierendorf; Alanna Ruszkowski; The Stricos family (friends of Joe and Diana Ruszkowski); Jim Servidea; Betsy Stewart (Jim and Denise Riehl's niece); Poppy Stewart (Tucker Murphy's grand-niece); Bob Thomas. *The Abo Noktah family (our Syrian refugees):* Khaldoun (father), Khawla Alzob (mother), daughters Hanin and Zain, and sons Yaman and Ahmed

## STOCK SALE: INVEST IN OUR SUMMER YOUTH MISSION TRIPS!

Please support our Summer Youth Mission Trips by "investing" in our annual Stock Sale, running Sundays May 6th-June 3rd. **Youth Mission Trips: June 24 – June 29 (MSYG/HSYG)** – all rising 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Trip will be to Boston, MA. Work will be construction and relational ministry. **July 7 – July 14: (HSYG) (completed 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade)** to Costa Rica. We will do a Church Ministry including a book drive for a local community, as well as Mercy Ministry (handing out food and praying with the community's poorest in their homes), and various kinds of children's ministry and games including crafts, memory books, and sports. Visit our display outside the Common Room after Worship to purchase your stock. Shareholders will receive a stock certificate, daily e-mail updates from the mission trips with photos and news, and a seat at the popular fall Shareholder's Luncheon, where our Youth will talk about their trips and share a slideshow of their mission work. **Thank you for your generous support! We literally can't do this Mission Work without YOU!**

### **Children's Book and Sports Equipment Collection for HSYG mission Trip to Costa Rica**

The HSYG mission trip will be collecting children and youth books and bibles over the next two months to create a library in Rio Cuarto, Costa Rica. We will also be collecting previously loved children's soccer cleats and jerseys of any kind to create a sports camp for the children of Rio Cuarto. Please look for our bins in the front hallway, and consider donating during May and June. Blessings, Rev. Kibbie Laird and HSYG.

### **GOOD NEWS FROM THE ABO NOKTAHS – OUR REFUGEE FAMILY**

Khaldoun, the father, has gained his driver's license, which is a huge step forward. Even better, an angel friend of the Abo Noktahs has offered up to \$10 thousand to acquire a car for them. But what we still need to do is track down a well-maintained car in this price range. If you have a car dealer, or an excellent mechanic, in your life network - please see if they might be prepared to be part of the search party for the right car. With four children, the family needs six seatbelts in the car. Other than that, we are wide open to suggestions. If you have any ideas or connections, please let John Lanaway know and he can provide further information. The Church office can connect you if you don't know John.



### **Mother's Day Flower Sale this Sunday**

Back by Popular Demand! **Mother's Day Flower Sale = \$25 for a beautiful potted flowering plant.** All proceeds go to the Youth Mission Scholarship Fund.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT 06840

Tel.: 203-966-0002 / www.fpcnc.org

Church Office Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

### SUNDAY, MAY 13: Mother's Day

- 10:00 AM**      **Worship with  
Rev. Mary Marple Thies**  
10:15 AM      Church School for grades preK-7  
11:15 AM      Coffee Hour  
11:15 AM      Cherub Choir  
4:00 PM      Charis Chamber Voices Concert

### MONDAY, MAY 14

- 2:00 PM      Meditation Group  
6:30 PM      Purple Heather Dancers

### TUESDAY, MAY 15

- 9:30 AM      Leadership Team  
**11:00 AM**      **Tues AM Bible Study**  
11:30 AM      Gentlemen Songsters  
7:00 PM      Session  
8:00 PM      Men's A.A.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

- 10:00 AM      Music Librarians  
10:00 AM      Dorcas Sewing Group  
10:30 AM      Pastoral Care Team  
12:00 PM      NC Clergy Association Luncheon  
5:00 PM      Carol Choir

### THURSDAY, MAY 17

- 3:30 PM      Special Church  
7:30 PM      FPC Choir

### FRIDAY, MAY 18

- 10:00 AM**      **Rae Ackerly's Memorial Service**

### SATURDAY, MAY 19

- 9:15 AM      A.A. (closed)  
10:00 AM      PCS Rehearsal  
10:30 AM      A.A. (open)

### SUNDAY, MAY 20: Pentecost Sunday

- 10:00 AM**      **Children's Play**  
No Sunday Cool for PreK and up  
11:15 AM      Coffee Hour  
11:15 AM      Sunday' Cool End of Year picnic  
11:15 AM      New Member Inquirers Class  
11:30 AM      Board of Deacons



Our **New Member Inquirers classes** run from **11:15-12:00** in the Parlor 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 2 (5/20): "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 (6/3): "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 (6/10): "Welcoming New Members"** ~ Breakfast at 9:15 in the Common Room hosted by the Elders and Deacons of the church as we prepare to welcome you into our church family during the service.





**Tues AM Bible Study: Genesis Part II**  
**Jacob and Joseph: Like Father, Like Son**

Taught by Rev. Mary Marple Thies

11:00 am – 12:30 pm in the Common Room

**DON'T COME** to this class looking for guidance on family values. The stories of Jacob and Joseph are marked by sibling rivalry, familial dysfunction, deception, theft and sexual harassment, as well as poignant tales of longing and grief, love and reconciliation.

**DO COME** if you sometimes wonder where God is at work in the world and discover how God's grace broke into the lives of these all-too-human people.

Week 4, 5/15	Jacob & Joseph	Genesis 35-37*
Week 5, 5/22	Joseph & Dream Interpretation	Genesis 39-45
Week 6, 5/29	The Family Reunited	Genesis 46-50

\*We will not study Genesis 38 since we did so Fall 2016



**Today at 4:00 p.m.**, Charis Chamber Voices directed by Art Sjögren, will be presenting their "Serenade to Spring" concert here at FPC. This Westchester-based chamber ensemble will be presenting works by Bridge, Berger, Minard, Padella, Brahms, and more. In true Art Sjögren style, the program is elegant and

creatively programmed with works spanning the centuries. Tickets are available at the door. Tickets are \$25 for regular admission, \$20 for seniors, and \$15 for students.



**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 Jim Beall in the church office.



**New Canaan Food Pantry:** Items in need now due to low/no stock are Salad Dressing, Kids Juice Boxes, Kids Snacks, Brownie Mix, Pancake Mix – add water only, Tea, Canned Chili, Canned Stew, Jelly, Packaged Pasta, Packaged Potatoes. **No beans or soup are needed now.** Please drop these items in the shopping cart at the back of the Sanctuary and we will make sure they are delivered to the New Canaan Food Pantry.

**Cents-ability:** On May 6, we collected \$55. Our total collection since we began Cents-ability at our church November 2011 is \$18,960. Thank you for your awareness and generous response to hunger. If you would like more information on Cents-ability or need a Cents-ability cup, please call the church office. Remember to fill up your Cents-ability cup ‘til it runneth over! **Our next collection is June 3.**

**New Covenant House:** We are looking for volunteers to prepare and/or serve meals at New Covenant House on Saturday, June 2. Preparing dinner is at 2pm and serving the meal is at 4pm. Please join us for this very rewarding way of giving back. Reply to glennmierendorf@gmail.com



Deacon Missions - Driving. Do you ever need a ride to or from church or church events? The deacons can help! Do you attend church or church events and would you be willing to be on an email list of potential drivers for others? The deacons can help there too!

The deacons are looking to expand our Driving mission by developing a list of potential drivers beyond the current Board of Deacons. We are also seeking to reach-out to those who may need rides to assure that all church members are able to attend church services and events. If you can be an occasional driver or you or anyone you know need rides to church, please call Tina at the church office or stop by the Deacon table in the Common Room after church today.



Thank you all so much for your GREAT response to the recent appeal from Rev. Kibbie Laird and Scott Beyer. Many of you already stepped up and generated incremental and new pledges and gifts. We're incredibly grateful to the families and individuals who so quickly contributed an additional \$81,000 bringing us up to \$763,000. This puts us within reach of our \$800,000 2018 operating budget goal. But we're not quite there yet, and great FPCNC programs and services are still in jeopardy. If there's any way you can consider an additional pledge for 2018, please contact Barbara Wentzel, Stewardship Chair, Armin Thies, or the Church office at 203-966-0002 or visit <http://fpcnc.org/stewardship/> to pledge or donate electronically TODAY! Every donation and pledge is a blessing to this congregation and its mission, as are you.

**OUR MINISTERS**

The Entire Congregation

**OUR PASTORS**

The Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird, Acting Head of Staff

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies, Parish Associate

Rev. Christopher G. Tate, Parish Associate

**OUR STAFF**

Victoria Shields, Director of Music / Sherry Tate, Cherub Choir director

Jim Beall, Acting Church Administrator / Tina St. Armand, Office Manager

Erika Hagan, Administrative Assistant to Children and Youth Ministries / 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*

*Charles Robinson, Co-Buildings and Grounds*

*Rose-Scott Rothbart, Co-Buildings and Grounds*

*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, *Inspirica, Meals-on-Wheels*

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, *Cards and Flowers*

Kathleen Servidea, *Cards and Flowers*

Elizabeth Stuart, *Flowers and Cards, Treasurer*

Ashley Walker, *Co-Youth*

*Rev. T. Guthrie Speers, Jr., Pastor Emeritus - Mrs. Marilyn J. Ballantine*