



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect

Christ the King Sunday • November 22, 2020 • 10 a.m.
178 OENOK RIDGE, NEW CANAAN, CT 06840 • 203-966-0002 • FPCNC.ORG

***Please Stand in Body and/or in Spirit.**

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.

THE GATHERING

Prelude

There is a Happy Land

George Shearing

***Call to Worship**

The Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr

Minister: O come, let us sing to the Lord;

People: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Minister: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

People: let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

Minister: For the Lord is a great God, and a great Ruler above all gods.

People: In God's hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are also God's.

Minister: The sea is God's, for the Lord made it, and the dry land, which God's hands have formed.

People: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.

--Adapted from the Psalm of the day, 95

Please silently ponder the text of the hymns as a soloist sings on your behalf.

*Hymn

We Gather Together

KREMSER

1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;
or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;
and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing.
so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;

Sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.
thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glo - ry be thine!
thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

Invitation to Confession

Leader: Thankful that we come before a loving and gracious God, we now take a moment to confess our sin before God and one another, trusting in God's forgiveness and mercy toward us in Jesus Christ. Let us pray.

Confession of Sin (unison)

People: Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are sorry for all we have done that dishonors or displeases you. Knowing that you are a generous God, we know that you already forgive us, so, in the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to live in your light and walk in your ways...

Silence for personal reflection and repentance...

Words of Assurance

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

People: **Amen.**

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the Good News!

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made righteous. Amen!**

Passing of the Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

(Please greet one another with a sign of the peace of Christ.)

THE WORD

Prayer For Illumination (unison)

Thank you, gracious God, for caring for the least, the lost, and the last. Help us to receive your Word, and respond in faith, so that we may live as your faithful people until we feast with You in glory; in Christ, with Christ, through Christ and for Christ we pray. Amen.

First Lesson – Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson – Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Minister: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Seeing the Reign of Christ”

The Rev. Scott Herr

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

The Rev. Scott Herr

The 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

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies;

Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise

For the beauty of the hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:

Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild:

Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n.

Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

*Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice - es,
2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in high - est heav - en,

who won-drous things hath done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
to Fa - ther and to Son and Spir - it now be giv - en:

who, from our moth-ers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when per-plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom heaven and earth a - dore,

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
the God who was, and is, and shall be ev - er - more.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble staff, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

*Charge and Benediction

The Rev. Scott Herr

Ringing of the Church Bell

*Postlude

Marche Triomphale: Nun Danket alle Gott, Op. 65, No. 59

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Welcome! This morning, Rev. Scott Herr invites you to reflect on the “Reign of Christ” through the lens of the lectionary texts for this morning from Ephesians 1:15-23 and Matthew 25:31-46.

Calling all Sunday School children! FPCNC is now offering Sunday School, via Zoom. Please join Augie Kelliher, this Sunday at 10:10 am, for an inter-active Sunday School class. Sunday's lesson focuses on seeing God in the face of our neighbors. To download the children's bulletin, please visit our website:

www.fpcnc.org. Look for the Sunday School link in the November 22 Sunday's Service blog.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72902945813?pwd=dmZNWW5ZanNHd3VtSDVY2VMVFphQT09>

MEETING ID: 729 0294 5813 / **PASSCODE:** joy!



It's Dove Time! This year marks the 52nd year of the Person-to-Person Dove Program. The requests for Dove Baskets have increased substantially over the last year. This year we will be supporting clients at Rippowam Manor and Family Centers. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Dove Program will be a fundraiser this year (as opposed to the traditional holiday meal purchase). As suggested by the Program, we are soliciting \$50 donations that P2P will use to purchase ShopRite gift cards for distribution to those who would otherwise have received a Dove box. There are several ways to contribute (white doves): **by check** (payable to FPCNC, mark for Dove Program, and put it to the attention of Tina); **by PayPal** through the church's website fpcnc.org (donors will need to add a note on the PayPal donate page stating that it is for the Dove Program). If you would like to donate to the Scholarship or Emergency Assistance (green doves), please mark that on your check. The deadline for receiving donations is Friday, December 4. If you have any questions regarding the Christmas Dove Program, please contact Tina at 203-966-0002 or tina@fpcnc.org. Thank you, Jim Ely, Donna Hill, and Bob Spangler (Dove Program coordinators).

Please consider volunteering to help with our Sunday service. We at First Presbyterian of New Canaan are always eager to share our talents and get to know one another better by participating in our services of worship. Please utilize this link to see all of the volunteer opportunities over the next couple months. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday>

New Canaan Food Pantry has re-opened. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at St. Mark's, by the food pantry door on Mondays 8:30-10:30 AM. The items most needed are Coffee (regular or decaf, drip or instant), apple juice, pancake mix, cereal (sweet or healthy), oatmeal, syrup, chicken, tuna, pasta sauce, vegetables, fruit, chili, soup, tortilla chips, salsa, crackers, salad dressing, applesauce, peanut butter, jelly, packaged potato dish, rice (white or brown), toothpaste, toothbrushes, dishwashing detergent, laundry detergent, ketchup, mustard, white vinegar.





Facebook Concerts Thursday Nights on the FPC Facebook Page! In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, there will not be an FPC Facebook Thursday concert this week. If you haven't seen Victoria's recital on November 12th, you are highly encouraged to check it out! The link for this recital is: <https://fb.watch/1QULieZzdi/>

Starting December 2nd! Wednesdays at 2! Musical Musings: Stories about Sunday's Music. Join Victoria to learn about the music for the upcoming Sunday! We'll learn the hymns and their stories, learn about the special music and how everything ties together in the Sunday service. So, if you've ever found yourself saying "I wonder where that came from" or "I don't know this hymn," then join us on Wednesdays so you are in the know before Sunday's service! Contact Victoria@fpcnc.org, if you are interested and for the Zoom link.



Slow down during Advent at our FPC Facebook Thursday Concerts with our series *Advent Meditations*, beginning on **Thursday, December 3rd** at 6:00 pm and ending on December 17. Through musical and spoken meditations, we encourage you to join us for this journey from darkness to light. Each week we will explore the themes of the Advent candles - hope, peace, joy, and love. Rev. Scott Herr will share meditations on each of these themes, and the programs feature a solo instrumentalist providing a musical meditation in the beautiful

candlelit Philip Ives Sanctuary. David Bakamjian (cellist), Adam Cockerham (Renaissance luteist), and Kristi Shade (harpist), will be our featured soloists for each program. We hope that through these meditations in word and music will bring you solace and hope during these uncertain times. *Advent Meditations* will be aired each Thursday in December, beginning on December 3rd at 6:00 pm on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FPCNC.

Women's Ministry Gathering, December 2 at 4 pm, via Zoom

Evelyn Bergstrom, our guest speaker, will be talking about her book, *Inklings*. *Inklings* is a meditative memoir based on Evelyn's journaling practice, which she uses to deepen her own spiritual life. She will briefly share how her book developed, and then offer an exercise for the Zoom participants to ponder and discuss. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81831140503>

Meeting ID: 818 3114 0503





Safe Connect: This is a difficult time of year, exacerbated by the pandemic and political and economic stressors. We want our community to be aware of help for our families and our neighbors. Please be aware there is a 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline 888-774-2900 to text or call. There is also email or chat available in any language at <https://ctsafecconnect.com/>. People contact *Safe Connect* for themselves or someone else they care about. Some have questions about their relationships and just want to talk. We take your lead, offering information, options, and possible outcomes. Also, tune in to the community podcast and latest Ep 8: Helping Friends in Abusive Relationships with DVCC's Suzanne Adam, Executive Director, at <https://www.talkingaboutit.org/>

Please keep the following people in your hearts. *Continued concerns:* Catherine Armstrong; Frank Banko; Gloria Bridgman; Dr. Charlotte Brown; John Edwards; James Marcotte; Joan Trefts, Debbie Murphy Williams. The Abo Noktah family (our Syrian refugees): father Khaldoun, mother Khawla Alzob, daughters Hanin, Zain and Hayat, and sons Yaman and Ahmed.

THIS WEEK at FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

10 a.m. **Worship Service via LocalLive**
 Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr
10:10 a.m. **Virtual Sunday School**
11 a.m. **Virtual Coffee Hour, via zoom**
 Password is **Joy!**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

10 a.m. Leadership Team, via zoom

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26: Thanksgiving Day

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27: Offices closed

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

10 a.m. **Worship Service via LocalLive**
 Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr
10:10 a.m. **Virtual Sunday School**
11 a.m. **Virtual Coffee Hour, via zoom**
 Password is **Joy!**

Lay Readers: Audrey and Layla Magnusen

Musician: Lisa Flanagan

MINISTERS

The Entire Congregation

OUR PASTORS

The Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr, Senior Pastor • The Rev. Mary Marple Thies, Parish Associate

OUR STAFF

Victoria Shields, Director of Music and Arts • Sherry Tate, Cherub Choir Director
Jim Riehl, Interim Church Administrator • Tina St. Armand, Office Manager
Edgar Torres, Day Sexton • Kate Stringfellow, Operations Manager



2021 FPCNC Stewardship Campaign Kicks Off!

Beginning in March, our lives changed in extraordinary ways. So many of the things we took for granted as ordinary and safe are now neither.

The months since then have been difficult for all of us, for the people we love and for the communities and nations where we live. Over these months, many of us have refocused on the most meaningful things: the other people who live in our homes, our extended families and the other people who live in the broader community.

Kim and I are so thankful to be called to serve with and among you. To learn what it means to invest in our community together. Many of you give faithfully of your time and talent, but as we move toward the end of the year, I also am glad to invite everyone who can to invest financially in the ministry and mission of our church, which is "to live spiritually, to love inclusively, to learn continuously, and to leave a legacy."

So, if you can, please give generously, as we don't want to leave a legacy of debt! In fact, the more we all can contribute, the more we can grow our mission. One of my prayers for our church is that we will be "internally strong and externally focused." It's simple: We care for one another, but we also invest in the greater community, serving those in need.

As we enter a season when we reflect on stewardship and Thanksgiving, we remember the many blessings we have received. Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving to the church when filling out and returning the pledge card you received in the mail. Or, if you prefer, you can make your 2021 pledge online at fpcnc.org/stewardship.

May God bless you for investing in a future with hope for our congregation, New Canaan, and the world.

Grace and peace to you.

The Reverend R. Scott Herr

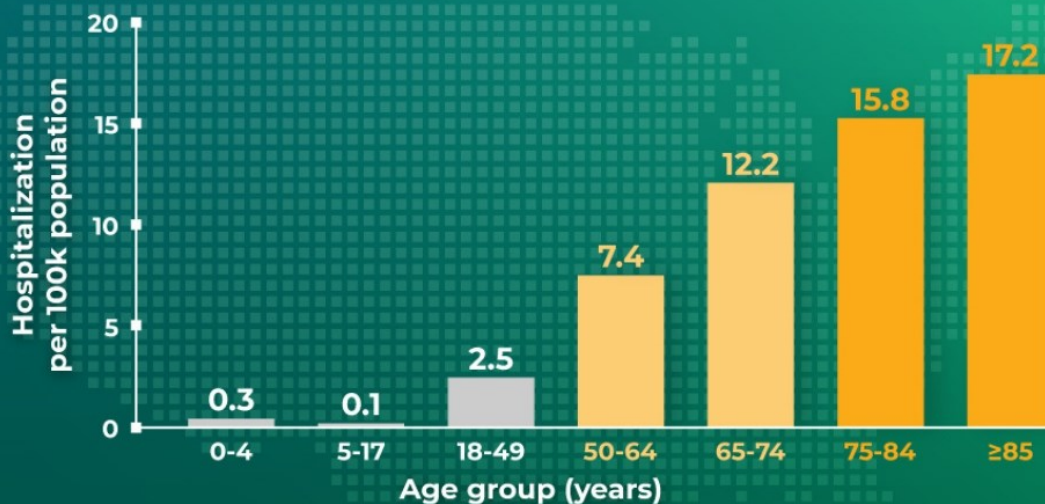
ATTENTION NEW CANAAN SENIORS:

The risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age, with **older adults at highest risk**. Stay home to stop the spread.

LET NEW CANAAN HUMAN SERVICES HELP YOU TO STAY WELL!

- Monthly outreach and more
- Grocery and pharmacy assistance

**RATES OF HOSPITALIZATION FOR COVID-19
INCREASE WITH AGE**



Everyone, especially older adults, should: ✓ stay home
✓ use face coverings in public settings ✓ wash hands frequently

CDC.GOV

bit.ly/MMWR_COVIDNET

MMWR

**The Human Services Department is here for you.
For any concerns:**



NEW CANAAN
CONNECTICUT
Human Services



**Adult/Senior Services
Coordinator:**

Marcella Rand, LMSW



**Human
Services:**

(203) 594-3083



Email:

Marcella.Rand@NewCanaanCT.Gov

LUX SUMMER THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH



1853

A NEW EARTH: THINKING THEOLOGICALLY ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

SUNDAY, JUNE 13 – SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2021

What does it mean to CARE FOR CREATION?

Are Christians called to RESPOND TO CLIMATE CHANGE?

Is it possible to LIVE SUSTAINABLY for the benefit of future generations?

Theologically curious high school students are invited to ***apply before January 1, 2021*** for the 2021 Lux Summer Theological Institute. Safety permitting, the program will be held in-person at Presbyterian-related ***Monmouth College*** (Monmouth, IL).

Funded by the Lilly Endowment, the Lux Institute is an opportunity for students to engage with a topic of global importance and participate in a living-learning community through study, worship, service, recreation, and vocational exploration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: lux.monmouthcollege.edu