



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

*Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect*

Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time • July 18, 2021 • 10 a.m.  
178 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN, CT 06840 • 203-966-0002 • FPCNC.ORG

*Grace and peace to you, and welcome! As you prepare for worship, please sign the red welcome pad, and pass it to your neighbor. At the end of the row, have the last person please pass it back to the center aisle so we can know our fellow worshippers. Then, prayerfully allow the silent, sacred space of where you are, and the quiet stirrings of the Spirit to prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

## THE GATHERING

**Prelude**

Meditation on *Amazing Grace*

Fred Swann

**\*Call to Worship (Adapted from Martha Spong)**

Courtney Steininger

Leader: You pick up when I call;

**People: You know before I tell you,**

Leader: Because you know me better than I know myself,

**People: Know when it's time for a change of venue, or companions, reinvention, revision, or re-creation.**

Leader: You are mercy and lovingkindness,

**People: from everlasting to everlasting.**

Leader: In your presence, I feel at home,

**People: And I trust I am yours forever.**

*\*PLEASE STAND IN BODY AND/OR SPIRIT.*

## Welcome and Announcements

### \*Invitation to Confession

Gigi Guthrie

Leader: Dear friends, the Scriptures urge us to acknowledge our sins, and not to conceal them in the presence of God our heavenly Father, but to confess them with a penitent and obedient heart, so that we may be forgiven through his boundless goodness and mercy. Therefore, let us draw near to the throne of our gracious God, and pray, first together and then silently...

### \*Confession of Sin (Adapted from poems by Jean Pearson, Christina Rossetti, and Phoebe Hesketh)

People: We ate not flesh in Eden, but afterwards, when things got hard, we forgot the peaceful kinship of that ancient kingdom. We made a chain of things to protect us—fire, medicine, our locking houses, many kinds of clothes. And we renamed them—farm product, fur crop, renewable resource. We pray that we will see the faces of those we hurt in the mirror of creation, the miracle of animals, their clear eyes meaning more than profit to our own!

Lord, purge our eyes to see within the seed a tree, within the glowing egg a bird, within the shroud a butterfly. Until, taught by such we see beyond all creatures, You, Dear God. And listen to your "Fear not; it is I."

Show us, O God, how to love not only animals, birds and all green and growing things, but the soil, air, and water by which we live, so that we may not exploit or pollute them for our own profit or convenience.

Help us to cherish these necessities for our survival; and guide those in authority to ensure that the human spirit may not be starved in pursuit of material comfort and wealth.

*(time for silent confession and reflection)*

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

People: Amen.

### \*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: We know from Scripture that all who touched Jesus were healed, that all who confess are forgiven. Forgiveness and healing are yours in Christ Jesus.

People: Amen.

### \*Passing of the Peace

Leader: The crucified-risen Christ's first words to his disciples were, "Peace be with you." This is the gift he gives to all his followers. 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.)*

## Children's Blessing

## THE WORD

### **Unison Prayer For Illumination**

**Shepherd God, you call us into a rhythm of work and rest that our lives may be the better for it. So shape our leisure and our labor, that the world will recognize us as Jesus' disciples and our ministry as what you would have us do. Amen.**

### **First Lesson – Psalm 23**

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Lesson – Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Minister: Holy wisdom, holy word.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

"Comfort versus Convenience"

Courtney Steininger

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### Prayers of the People

Rev. Mary Marple Thies

#### 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

Gigi Guthrie

Leader: Lord, our Shepherd, thank you that you are infinitely, consistently, and perfectly wise. You have said that whatever we give is acceptable if we give it eagerly. You have said that we should give according to what we have. Help us to bring our offerings with an eager heart, not as a comparison with others but as an act of worship to you.

#### \*Offertory

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Felix Mendelssohn

The king of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never  
I nothing lack if I am His,  
And He is mine forever.  
Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul He leadeth,  
And where the verdant pastures grow,  
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love He sought me,  
And on His shoulder gently laid,  
And home rejoicing brought me.  
In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me.  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy cross before to guide me.

And so through all the length of days,  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good shepherd, may I sing  
Thy praise Within Thy house forever.

#### Prayer of Dedication (Adapted from Frances Ridley Havergal)

Gigi Guthrie

Leader: Take our lives, and let them be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take our moments and our days, let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take our hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take our feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. Take our love; Lord, we pour at thy feet its treasure-store; take ourselves, and we will be ever, only, all for thee.

People: **Amen.**

## SENDING

\*Hymn No. 610

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

\*Charge and Benediction

Courtney Steininger

Ringing of the Church Bell

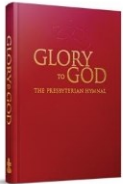
\*Postlude

Festival Toccata on *St. Anne*

Fred Swann

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**Welcome to worship on this** Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time in the church calendar! Courtney will be preaching on “Comfort versus Convenience” in the house of the Lord, based on the texts of Psalm 23 and Mark 6:30-34, 53-56. Reflect on those who have comforted you and what sorts of comforts for which you look to the Lord.



**You may have noticed that new hymnals are at our seats today!** This has been a long process and we are grateful to all of you who contributed to their purchase and to the team that did all the legwork, Peggy Hooker, Carole Clarkson, Jim Beall, Jan and Jim Lucie and Victoria Shields. Take a moment when you are able to thumb through this terrific new resource. In the fall there will be a dedication.

**Worship Returns to Full Capacity at FPCNC for our In-Person Worship Service.** With the suspension of Covid-19 restrictions in the State of Connecticut, with population vaccination rates approaching 70%, and on the advice of Clerks of Session John Lanaway, Jen Van de Graaf, and the Reverend Scott Herr. FPCNC is now offering weekly in-person worship, with no social distancing and with facemasks optional. The new policy will also apply to funerals, weddings, etc. There is no pre-registration required, and the in-person Sunday service will simultaneously be available streaming online via *Local Live* at 10:00 a.m. Please note that with warmer summer temperatures here, our air-conditioning system has been enhanced with an Ultra-violet filtration system effective in killing the Covid-19 virus.

**Childcare** is provided for the entirety of the service for all children under the age of 5. Additionally, there are children’s bulletins available and a “pray ground” for older children to utilize during the service. This Sunday, children present in worship during the sermon will be invited to participate in an interactive work of art. Additionally, if you have not yet registered your child for Fun Fridays at First Pres, please do so ASAP, and reach out to [Courtney](#) with any questions!

**Fun Fridays at First Pres- July 9th – August 13<sup>th</sup> • 3-5:30 pm in the Youth Barn**

For parents of children aged 3-9. Through July and part of August, First Presbyterian Church will be hosting "Fun Fridays" from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm for children ages 3 through 9. This FREE program is an opportunity to drop off your kids for a couple of hours while you grocery shop, grab a cup of coffee with your friends, or just enjoy a couple of hours to yourself! Our programming will be predominantly non-religious, with some spirituality sprinkled in. We are modifying the Abundant Life Garden Project curriculum, so each week we will move through the themes of Water, Soil, Seeds, Animals, Harvest, and Celebration, while providing the kids with a craft and activity based on the lesson. Certainly, the themes build on each other, but participation each week is not required. There will also be music opportunities, outside games, and a snack that will be served! Please register your kids at the following link:



Certainly, the themes build on each other, but participation each week is not required. There will also be music opportunities, outside games, and a snack that will be served! Please register your kids at the following link: <https://forms.gle/zg84FprLJCD2Lute9>.

**Sign-Up Genius.** We really need your help at FPCNC this summer as many of our congregation travel extensively or are out of town on the weekends. Please be sure when you use this link that you GO ALL THE WAY TO THE BOTTOM OF THE FIRST PAGE and hit "submit" that takes you to page 2. Here you will enter your email for reminders, and this will enter your name in the appropriate volunteer space. We truly appreciate your volunteering in July and August. Here is the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday>

**Listening Assist System:** For people now attending in-person services at FPC, we have a new Listening Assist system for those needing hearing or listening assistance. The new devices are located on the table at the rear center of the Sanctuary in front of the stained-glass windows. The receiving devices are in a new charging station and the ear-pieces are in a basket on the table. If you need assistance with the device, please ask an usher.

**Are you wondering what that strange RV is out in the parking lot?** The one with the University of Virginia Lacrosse logos? Well, it wouldn't fit in the driveway of some local New Canaan residents, so they are paying FPCNC rent to let it camp with us over the summer. Come Labor Day, it will be going back home. So, there it is. Mystery solved.

Part of our church's mission statement says that we are to love inclusively. To that end, the **Pastoral Care Team** was formed to provide pastoral care to church members who are facing a life crisis. They may be in declining health, shut-ins, living in a care facility, grieving, or struggling with a significant change in their circumstances. Sometimes, however, there are members with needs of which the Team is unaware. If you know of someone who could benefit from a friendly phone call or visit or if you have questions about the work of the Team, please call the church office, 203-966-0002. Your Pastoral Care Team— Evelyn Bergstrom, Kay Brix, Peg Bull, Ted Foster, Linda Martin, Anne Palmer and Rev. Mary Thies is here for you.



**Please keep the following people in your hearts. New Concerns:** Bev Thomas. **Continued concerns:** Tim and Kate Albert (friends of the Holden family); Catherine Armstrong; Gloria Bridgman; John Edwards; Tindley Whipple Gilbert; Nancy Helle, Mary Bolling Hoffman; John Lanaway; Denise Lynch; Bill Malone (friend of Sarah Robinson). 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, and Khaldoun's mother, Nam Abo Noktah.

**Let's Talk About It New Canaan** is a website that provides *behavioral health resources* for the citizens of New Canaan. Behavioral health is the scientific study of the emotions, behaviors, and biology relating to a person's mental well-being, ability to function in everyday life, and concept of self. This is an excellent resource for you and your neighbors, friends, and colleagues at school and at the office (online or in-person colleagues). Please take a moment to browse the "Let's Talk About It" website to discover various resources for promoting the health of our community: <https://letstalkaboutitnc.org>. Or see the promotional video at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1d5PEm\\_rpM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1d5PEm_rpM) Special thanks to Dede Bartlett, a member of FPCNC who has been working with The NCCF Behavioral Health Partners over the past few years to provide a website with resources for the larger community.

**THIS WEEK at FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN**

**Summer Office Hours: June 21 – September 3, 2021**

**9 – 4 pm Monday-Thursday and 9-1 on Fridays.**

**SUNDAY, JULY 18**

**10 a.m. Worship Service via LocalLive  
and in-person  
Courtney Steininger preaching**  
**11 a.m. Coffee Hour, in person and via Zoom**

**TUESDAY, JULY 20**

**8 p.m. Men's A.A. Group**

**THURSDAY, JULY 22**

**11 a.m. Memorial Service for Ruth L. Harding**

**FRIDAY, JULY 23**

**3 p.m. Fun Fridays at First Pres.**

**SATURDAY, JULY 24**

**9:15 a.m. A.A. Group (closed)**

**10:30 a.m. A.A. Group (open)**

**SUNDAY, JULY 25**

**10 a.m. Worship Service via LocalLive  
and in-person  
Rev. Mary Marple Thies preaching**  
**11 a.m. Coffee Hour, in person and via Zoom**

**Those Participating in today's service:**

**Guest Organist:** Terence J. Flanagan

**Soloists:** Lisa Flanagan and Terence D. Flanagan

**Greeter:** Jeannie Hart

**Ushers:** Jim Ely and Peggy Hooker

**Reader:** Gigi Guthrie

**Cross Bearer:** Nick Guthrie

**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

Courtney Steininger, Director of Youth and Children Ministries

Jim Riehl, Interim Church Administrator • Tina St. Armand, Office Manager

Kate Stringfellow, Operations Manager



## NEW CANAAN CHAMBER MUSIC SUMMER CONCERT!

Sunday, August 8th at 4pm

Indoors at the First Presbyterian Church  
178 Oenoke Ridge Road in New Canaan

3pm talk by R.J. Kelley on the intriguing history and evolution of the horn as a musical instrument and surprising communication device!

Tickets: [www.newcanaanchambermusic.org/tickets](http://www.newcanaanchambermusic.org/tickets)



New Canaan's native son,  
virtuoso pianist  
**Andrew Armstrong**

Performing with  
world-class musicians  
Arnaud Sussmann  
(violin)  
R.J. Kelley  
(horn and French horn)

New Canaan Chamber Music, Inc.  
P.O.Box 193 New Canaan, CT 06840  
203-594-6613 info@newcanaanchambermusic.org  
To make a tax-deductible contribution, please go to [www.rebrand.ly/NCCMDonate](http://www.rebrand.ly/NCCMDonate).

**firstcandle**

## SAVE THE DATE Country Music for a Cause with Trey Taylor

Join us for a night of live music, delicious  
BBQ and fun all benefiting First Candle!

Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 // 7:30pm

First Presbyterian Church (outdoor area)  
178 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT 06840

- ❖ Live outdoor musical performance by Nashville recording artist - Trey Taylor
- ❖ Country BBQ & alcohol catered by Odeen's BBQ
- ❖ Silent Auction including guitar lessons with Trey and more!

First Candle is a non-profit organization committed to ending Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and other sleep-related infant deaths while providing bereavement support to families who have experienced a loss.

Individual Tickets \$75  
For more info and to purchase tickets visit:  
[FirstCandle.org](http://FirstCandle.org)

