



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

*Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect*

Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time • July 25, 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 worshipers. 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**

Mode de ré (from *Huit Pieces Modales*)

Jean Langlais

**\*Call to Worship --from Psalm 145**

Rev. Scott Herr

Leader: God always does what God says, and is gracious in everything God does.

**People: God gives a hand to those down on their luck.**

Leader: God gives a fresh start to those ready to quit.

**People: Generous to a fault, God lavishes favor on all creatures.**

Leader: Come, then, and worship our God.

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

**Welcome and Announcements**

The Rev. Scott Herr

**\*Invitation to Confession**

Evelyn Bergstrom

Leader: The words of our confession are given to us by the Shepherd King and Poet, David, a man who knew himself to be a sinner, but also trusted his guilt to God's grace. May we come to confession with that same trust.

**\*Confession of Sin --from Psalm 51**

**People: Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

*(time for silent confession and reflection)*

Leader: In Jesus' name we pray.

**People: Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Know afresh the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ, which is poured out on us.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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**

**Holy and merciful God, by your Spirit, place our lives in front of your word to us, that we may be formed as your people. Amen.**

### **First Lesson – II Samuel 11:1-15**

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Lesson – Ephesians 3:14-21**

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Minister: Holy wisdom, holy word.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## 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

Evelyn Bergstrom

Leader: God's grace is abundant beyond measure, tamped down, overflowing, beyond measure. As God's children, let us respond generously in love. Let us bring our tithes and our offerings to God.

#### \*Offertory

*Ride Up In The Chariot*

arr. Betty Jackson King

Gonna ride up in the chariot,  
soona in the mornin'  
and I hope I'll join the band.  
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.

Gonna walk and talk with Jesus,  
soona in the mornin'  
and I hope I'll join the band.

Gonna chatter with the angels,  
soona in the mornin'  
and I hope I'll join the band.

#### Prayer of Dedication

Evelyn Bergstrom

Leader: Holy God, take our gifts and multiply them that the whole world might sit down to eat. Use them to feed the hungry, free the captives, and love those in need of wholeness. With these gifts, we give you our time and prayers, our special talents and creativity, our hard work and times of leisure. We give this all in joy and thanksgiving through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

## SENDING

#### \*Glory to God Hymnal No. 436

*God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us*

O QUANTA QUALIA

#### \*Charge and Benediction

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

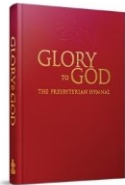
#### Ringling of the Church Bell

#### \*Postlude

Mode de fa (from *Huit Pieces Modales*)

Jean Langlais

**Welcome to worship on this Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time in the church calendar!** Mary will be preaching on the gift of the practice of confession, forgiveness and peace is to us as individuals and to the difficult conversations of our divided society. The sermon will be based on the story of David in II Samuel chapters 11 and 12.



**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 there will be children's worship during the sermon. This week, the theme of children's worship will be "The Power of Love," based on our epistle lesson, Ephesians 3:14-21 for the day. 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: <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. 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); Bev Thomas; 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.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL TONG LAUNCHES ELDER JUSTICE HOTLINE.** (Hartford, CT) – Attorney General William Tong, Aging and Disabilities Commissioner Amy Porter, Consumer Protection Commissioner Michelle H. Seagull and the Coalition for Elder Justice in Connecticut launched the Elder Justice Hotline-- a "one stop shop" for older in adults in Connecticut in need of information, aid, and justice. Elder justice issues can range from age-based discrimination in the workplace to scams and frauds, elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. As a result, no one state agency can answer every question. The Consumer Assistance Unit of the Office of the Attorney General will staff the hotline and refer matters as appropriate to agencies across state government. The hotline can be reached at 1-860-808-5555. Individuals may also access information about the hotline, resources, and an online complaint portal here: <https://portal.ct.gov/ag/elderhotline> "If you have been the victim of a scam, or have been neglected, exploited or abused, we are here to help. It's hard sometimes to know who to call, so we want to make it easy. The Elder Justice Hotline can answer your questions, connect you with trained investigators, and help you access aid, support and justice," said Attorney General Tong. Check out [The Hub's Resource Guide](#), a thorough list of nonprofit & public-sector services for crisis, mental health and substance use disorders, and support programs, including a listing of [free peer support groups](#) – all in the Southwestern CT area.

**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 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**

**TUESDAY, JULY 27**

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

**FRIDAY, JULY 30**

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

**SATURDAY, JULY 31**

**9:15 a.m. A.A. Group (closed)**  
**10:30 a.m. A.A. Group (open)**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 1**

**10 a.m. Holy Communion via LocalLive  
and in-person  
Rev. Scott Herr preaching**  
**11 a.m. Coffee Hour, in person and via Zoom**

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

**Guest Organist:** Terence J. Flanagan

**Soloist:** Lisa Flanagan

**Greeter:** Jen Van de Graaf

**Ushers:** Margaret Cooper and Barbara Wentzel

**Reader:** Evelyn Bergstrom

**Cross Bearer:** Armin Thies

**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)

