

THE POSTLUDE

“Amen” (*Carl Wiltse*) #320 Chalice Hymnal

†Please stand in Body or in Spirit.

When exiting the pew, please be careful and STEP DOWN.

The Meetinghouse Ringers

Jamie Branyan
Riley Branyan
Allison Fay
Eric Nyquist
Jen Nyquist
Becky Oakes
Sue Romatzick
Dr. Joe Utterback



For more information about the church and ways to give,
please scan this QR code with your phone's camera.



May 19, 2024 Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday 10:00 AM

FOR REFLECTION: Psalm 104:24-34 Pew Bible pg. 544

Please respect this time of meditation and reflection by remaining quiet for the benefit of those around you who may be in a spirit of prayer.

CHIMING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Two Fanfares for Bells, Set II” *Keller*
The Meetinghouse Ringers

CALL TO WORSHIP *Jennifer Nyquist, Deacon*

One: Come to us, in us, and through us, powerful God! Ignite the fire of your Spirit within our lives.

All: **Come Holy Spirit! Come!**

One: Come Holy Spirit and let the fresh breezes of your presence refresh us like a spring breeze.

All: **Come Holy Spirit! Come!**

One: Come Holy Spirit and fill us and equip us for love and justice, that your glory may fill the earth. Come Holy Spirit!

All: **Come and fill our hearts today.**

†**HYMN OF PRAISE** “Spirit of God, Descent upon My Heart”
#265 Chalice Hymnal

PRESENTATION OF THE THIRD GRADE BIBLES

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh upon us. Your presence among us is a blessing and a gift. Open us to receive, ponder, and grow. In voice, body, and spirit, we worship you and invite your transformative power to be alive among us and at work in us. Here we are, O Triune God, here we are. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (See Insert)

ANTHEM “Come, Worship God” *Williams/Martin*
The Chancel Choir

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER
PASTORAL PRAYER

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offertory Sentences

Let us show forth our faith by giving to God as an act of worship, that we may be a part of God’s great work in our world.

Offertory Music “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” *Traditional*
Mike Lofaro, baritone, and Ingmar Eggen, harmonica

†**DOXOLOGY** #47 Chalice Hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Gracious God, you call us to let go of the things we cling to and to trust in you. Accept these offerings, we pray that they may be used to bring your love and presence to our community and to the world. Amen.

†**HYMN** “Here I Am, Lord” #452 Chalice Hymnal

GOPEL READING John 20: 19-23 Pew Bible pg. 958

THE MESSAGE “A Gentle Touch” *Reverend Ed Rawls*

THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION (See Insert)

†**THE CLOSING HYMN** “Spirit” #249 Chalice Hymnal

THE COMMON COMMISSION (Unison)

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the fainthearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all people, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE BENEDICTION

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

WELCOME

Following the tradition of Jesus who welcomed children into his community, we celebrate the presence of children within this community of faith and offer to them the sacrament of baptism. In baptism, we celebrate the love of God made known in our children. We also affirm the sacredness of the covenant shared between our children, their parents, and this congregation to support our children as they grow and mature in faith.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life of our community, opening our hearts to those most vulnerable, offering the wisdom of the ages to all who hunger for truth.

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to this child being baptized as she lives and grows in this Christian community?

People: We promise our love, support and care.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: I invite you to respond with the historic affirmation of faith used at the time of baptism since the earliest days of the Christian Church:

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

BAPTISMAL PRAYER

ACT OF BAPTISM

†THE GLORIA PATRI

#35 Chalice Hymnal

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

WELCOME ON BEHALF OF CONGREGATION

BENEDICTION

ORDER OF CONFIRMATION

INVITATION

SENTENCES FROM THE BOOK OF ROMANS

QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God the Father.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER OF THE CANDIDATES

O God, my God, known to me in Jesus Christ, I give myself to you as your own, to love and serve you faithfully all the days of my life.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Pastor: Let us pray

All: Holy One, through the powerful wind of Your Spirit, breathe upon these confirmation students.

May the vows they confess

bind them to you and to your church,

with gifts of faithful service,

bold witness, and constant love.

Bless, guide and direct them,

their families and their church family,

so that together we may bless one another,

and bless the world,

with life-giving, Spirit filled ministry and service.

Come, Holy Spirit. Be our strength and our guide. Amen.

THE ACT OF CONFIRMATION

THE PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

ADDRESS TO THE NEWLY CONFIRMED

SIGNING OF THE COVENANT WELCOME

Deacon: Let us the members of First Congregational Church of Stratford, express our welcome, and affirm our mutual ministry.

People: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ.

By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, and be witnesses to our risen Savior.

GREETING OF THE PASTOR AND DEACONS

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the members of First Congregational Church we extend to you the hand of Christian love.

PRAYER