



First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 18, 2022
10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

What I try to tell young people is that if you come together with a mission, and it's grounded with love and a sense of community, you can make the impossible possible.

John Lewis, U.S.
Congressman and
Civil Rights Leader

PRELUDE

II. Andante sostenuto from Symphonie Gothique, Op. 70
Eddie Zheng, Associate Organist

Charles-Marie Widor
(1844 –1937)

Kirby and Breit Delany, bell ringers

WELCOME

Lynn Barger Elliott

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 100)

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

All: Worship the Lord with gladness!

One: Come into God's presence with singing!

All: We belong to the Lord who made us.

One: We are God's people. Come let us worship!

*HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Hymn 611

Ludwig Van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

*INVITATION TO PRAYER

Andre Castillo

The British theologian John Henry Newman enters into the spirit of prayer with these words: "Lead my way and keep my feet. I do not ask to see the distant scene. One step is enough for me." Together, let us take one step towards God. Let us pray.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Harold Kushner, adapted)

One: Loving and compassionate God,
Let the sun come down and wash away the grudges and assumptions we hold and nurture.

All: Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows.

One: Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken.

All: Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly.

One: Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness,
so that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbors.

**All: And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbors.
Hear our silent thoughts and confessions:**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*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, Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

Mark Barger Elliott

ANTHEM

Here I Am Lord
Heather Antonissen, soprano
Lesley Craigie, soprano
Caroline Worra, piano

Daniel L. Schutte
(b. 2007)
Arr. by Lloyd Larson

***DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Andre Castillo

HYMN

O Christ, the Great Foundation
Hymn 361

Samuel Sebastian Wesley
(1810-1876)

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 20:1-16
One: This is the word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Lynn Barger Elliott

SERMON

The Witness of Parables: Heuristics, Assumptions and the Impossible

ANTHEM

O Lord God
Chancel Choir

Paul Tchesnokoff
(1877-1944)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Mark Barger Elliott

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

***HYMN**

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
Hymn 546

18th century Sicilian melody

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Allegro vivace from Symphony No. 5, Op. 42
Eddie Zheng, Associate Organist

Charles-Marie Widor
(1844 –1937)

**Please stand if you're able.*

WELCOME!

We are delighted you are joining us in worship! Founded on Easter Sunday in 1881, the mission of First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich is to nurture and empower people in all stages of life to be Christ's disciples and to actively serve those in need.

We invite you to learn about our congregation including our choir programs (Chancel, Handbell, Young Disciples, and Children), Mosaic program for children, Nursery School, education opportunities for all ages, service projects, and support of programs that meet in our building including Abilis, which provides assistance to young adults with developmental disabilities and their families. Our current COVID protocol is we are mask optional, and we ask those in the balcony to please wear a mask.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Dr. Mark Barger Elliott
The Rev. Lynn Barger Elliott
The Rev. Andre Castillo
Caroline Worra, pianist/conductor
Eddie Zheng, associate organist
FPCG Chancel Choir
Heather Antonissen, soprano
Lesley Craigie, soprano
Kirby and Breit Delany, bell ringers

USHER TEAM 4

Matthew Lorig (Captain),
Helen Ji, Jonathan Larken,
Julie Lorig, Eleanor Lorig, Judy Soto

Mission Trip Speakers

Steven Maasback
Layla Rodriguez

Cover: Photograph by Peter Boldt

CHANCEL FLOWERS - To dedicate flowers in celebration or memoriam, please email: info@fpcg.org.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for all those impacted by gun violence; the people of Ukraine; our friends in Haiti, Amy Holms (Lesley Craigie); Paula Jensen, Adolfo Paniagua; Jeff (Barbara McKelvey); George Hallenbeck; Adrienne Perry; Shelly Jones (Carolyn Hahn-Re); Peg Hroziencik (Liz Harden), Lorelei Perez (Dana Rodriguez).

WHERE TO PICK UP YOUR CHILDREN

Every Sunday during worship, during the Time for Young Disciples children are invited forward for a message from one of our pastors. After this, children are ushered by our Sunday school teachers to our respective Sunday school classrooms.

Starting today, September 18, pick up after worship pick up is as follows:

- Nursery – Grade 4 must be picked up by a parent or older sibling.
- Grade 5 & up are dismissed on their own.
- Pre-K and kindergarten: Room 221
- Grades 1-2: Room 343
- Grades 3-4: Room 344
- Grades 5-8: Youth Room, 4th floor

Dates to Remember

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September	25 New Member Class	30 High School Ministry Kickoff
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MUSIC MINISTER ANNOUNCEMENT



The Music Minister Nominating Committee is pleased to announce on behalf of Session that Dr. Caroline Worra will start as FPCG Music Minister on September 1, 2022. Caroline was responsible, along with her husband Kreg Gotshall, current Bass section leader for FPCG, for Performing Arts, Concert and Bell Choirs, Vocal Ensembles, and many other musical activities, for 17 years at Stanwich School. Caroline and Kreg were section leaders in the Chancel Choir at Second Congregational Church Choir for 14 years. Caroline received her Doctor of Music from Indiana University in Vocal Performance, with Minors in Choral Conducting and Music Education, her Master of Music from the University of Missouri and her Bachelor of Arts in Piano and Vocal Performance from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. Caroline has a particular passion for working with children and youth. Thank you to our search committee: David DeWahl Jr. (Chair), Olivia Allan, Margaret Mack, Peter McWhorter, and Marcia Preston.

WELCOME OUR NEW ASSOCIATE ORGANIST



Eddie Zheng, a native of New York City, is an MM and recently graduated BM student of Paul Jacobs at the Juilliard School. Eddie has performed in cities throughout North America, such as New York (St. Patrick's Cathedral), Philadelphia (Longwood Gardens), and Montreal (St. James United). Overseas, he has performed in China at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing, Beijing Concert Hall, and Beijing Golden Sail Concert Hall. He was the first prize winner of the 2018 Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition. He previously held positions as Organ Scholar at Hitchcock Presbyterian, Calvary Baptist, and Rye Presbyterian Church. Eddie also loves cycling, gardening, and brewing espresso.

NEW MEMBER CLASS – SEPTEMBER 25

Join us in the Chapel on the 2nd floor after worship as our Pastors share information about our congregation and what it means to join this faith community.

ADULT EDUCATION STARTS – OCTOBER 2

Join Co-Senior Ministers Mark and Lynn Barger Elliott as they reflect on where to find faith in our world through art, music, words, and dirt from 11:30 AM -12:15 PM in the Chapel.

MUSIC REHEARSALS

All choirs rehearse during our *Wednesday Night Live* Program between 5 and 8:45 PM. Childcare and dinner provided. Contact: caroline.worra@fpcg.org

FAITH ENRICHMENT

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Friday, October 14 • 9:15 AM • Church Library

Join us at 9:15 for coffee and catching up, followed by book discussion, from 9:30 to 10:30 AM, in the church library on the 4th floor. Our October book is *Groundskeeping*, by Lee Cole. For more details, contact Colleen Giambo: cgiambo@gmail.com.

5 PM CHAPEL RESUMES – OCTOBER 2

Join us for a contemporary family-friendly service in the Chapel on the 2nd floor. The service will include special music, hymns, a time for prayer and a sermon.

FAITH + OVERCOMING RACIAL BIAS

What is antiracism and what does it require of us? All are invited to this Presbytery-wide virtual course on Wednesdays, October 5 & 19 and November 2 & 16, 6-8 PM. The course provides tools to shift from passive learning and awareness of racism to a shared language and active participation in creating more faithful congregations and communities. To register, contact the PSNE Anti-Racism & Equity Committee Chair, Rev. Jenny Peek: jennifer.peek@yale.edu.

FELLOWSHIP AROUND THE BIBLE (FAB) – Group-led Bible Study •

Wednesday, September 21 • 1:30 PM • Library

FAB is a weekly multigenerational women's group. Beginning September 21, join us as we explore the lives of Biblical women such as Rebekah, Magdalene, and Martha. Email Renee Lux to RSVP or for more information: reneelux@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP DINNERS: *FIRST Come FIRST Serve* • October 15-31

It's time to get together! The ever-popular fellowship dinners are back. We have one Host already signed up, but need 4-5 more. Dinner menus, themes, date & number of guests are all up to the Host - simple, formal, small, large, whatever. Anyone interested in hosting a dinner any evening between Oct. 15- Oct. 31, please contact Diane Brown at ditucket@yahoo.com or Julie Lorig at julie.lorig@gmail.com.

MISSION ENGAGEMENT

AFGHAN FAMILY RESETTLEMENT –

Great opportunities to serve for all ages! Our congregation has assisted with the resettlement of 18 members of the Naziri Family (4 months to 70+ years), who were evacuated from Afghanistan in August 2021. Become part of their incredible journey, contact Bruce Wunningham: bwinningham@northstarpartersinc.com) Wayne Atwell (rwayneatwell@aol.com); Amy Dana (amyadana27@gmail.com).

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY THIS FALL

Sunday School for Pre-K — 8th grade

After the *Time for Young Disciples*, children are welcome to remain in the service or to attend Sunday School. Our *Faith Garden* curriculum is taught by Church staff and adult volunteers. Childcare is available for up to age 3, 9:45 – 11:45 AM.

Mosaic — Classes for Pre-K - Grade 5. Childcare is provided from 5:00—8:30 PM.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY THIS FALL

Come to our kick-off social on Friday, September 30 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Stay tuned for more details!

PACIFIC HOUSE

Join the FPCG team on the second Thursday of each month to cook and serve meals for men and young male residents of Pacific House. If you would like to help, contact Carol Barber at cbarber@cyburban.com

- **1:30 - 4:30 PM** • Cook in the FPCG kitchen.
- **5:30 - 7:00 PM** • Serve at Pacific House.

YOUTH MINISTRY THIS FALL

Youth Group — Grades 6-8, Wednesdays, 7-8 PM

Confirmation — Grades 8+ Starts Sunday, Oct. 2

Calling all 8th graders! Grow in your relationship with Jesus, hang out with friends, and learn what it means to be a member at First Pres in our annual confirmation experience! Parents and prospective confirmands are invited to join us for our *Confirmation Kick Off* on Sunday, October 2 from 4:00 – 5:45 PM. Confirmation classes begin on Sunday, October 9 from 4:00 – 5:45 PM in the 4th floor Youth Suite. Contact Rev. Andre Castillo for more information: andre.castillo@fpcg.org

Clergy & Staff Contacts

Rev. Lynn Barger Elliott - Co-Senior Minister	lynnbe@fpcg.org	(203) 869-8686 x 115
Rev. Dr. Mark Barger Elliott - Co-Senior Minister	markbe@fpcg.org	(203) 869-8686 x 116
Rev. Andre Castillo - Associate Minister	andre.castillo@fpcg.org	(203) 869-8686 x 119
Randy Ante - Facilities Manager	randy.ante@fpcg.org	(203) 869-8686 x114
Heather Antonissen - Dir. Bell Choir	heather.antonissen@fpcg.org	
Rommel Espano - Sexton	rommel.espano@fpcg.org	(203) 869-8686 x130
Lorna O'Hanlon - Office Manager	lorna@fpcg.org	(203) 869-8686 x110
Sue Lee - Financial Manager	sue.lee@fpcg.org	(203) 869-8686 x128
Michele D. Olsen - Dir. FPCG Nursery School	michele.olsen@fpcgns.org	(203) 869-7782
Erin Moore – Business Manager	erin@fpcg.org	(203) 869-8686 x123
Dr. Caroline Worra - Minister of Music	caroline.worra@fpcg.org	(203) 869-8686 x120
Tara Church, Interim Director of Children's Ministry	tara.church@fpcgns.org	(203) 869-8686 x 118

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS • 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM (3:30 PM July-Aug.)

One West Putnam Avenue Greenwich, CT 06830 • (203) 869-8686 • www.fpcg.org



We are a Stephen Ministry Church



CELEBRATION OF MISSION

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR



We provided the first major gift of \$100,000 to the Cohen Center, which opened in August 2022 as the new home for Neighbor to Neighbor. Our gift sponsored the food workroom for sorting and storing frozen and fresh foods and non-perishables. In 2022, 667 households received food supplements to provide 630,324 meals.

HAITI-ST. MARC'S SCHOOL



In 2017, we partnered with SUMMITS Education and provided \$100,000 seed money for K-6 education in the remote area of Artibonite Department. In January 2021, St. Marc's School opened to 164 students and was given an exemplary award. Plans and funding are in place to build 5 more schools using the St Marc's blueprint.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT



For over 40 years, First Pres has been committed to resettling refugees. From meeting families in flip flops at the airport to covering a first year's rent, furnishing homes with beds, registering children for school, applying for jobs and setting up bank accounts, we have helped families find a new place to call home.

JACKSON MISSION



Our youth group spent a week working with a ministry founded by John Perkins, a Civil Rights leader. The group lead a day camp for children, rehabbed homes, and visited the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.

1001 HOURS

We did it! From packing 500 pounds of rice and beans to sending supplies to Ukrainian refugees in Poland, from leading children's day camps in Jackson, Mississippi to helping Afghan Evacuees find employment, nearly 160 First Pres members committed over 1001 hours to make a difference in our community, country and world!

OTHER MISSION PARTNERS

- Abilis
- Boys and Girls Club
- Call-A-Ride
- KIC (Kids In Crisis)
- Pacific House
- PEHT - Partnership to End Human Trafficking