

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 15, 2021 ~ 10:00am

A HOLY HIT PARADE

FOR YOUR MEDITATION

“Nothing ever goes away until it has taught us what we need to know” ~ Pema Chodron

We enter, never as strangers, because God welcomes each of us.

And just as God welcomes you, so do we.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, we welcome you this morning! May you experience God’s presence, and receive the blessing God has prepared for you.

THE PRELUDE

A WELCOME IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

THE INTROIT

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST & PEACE CANDLES

***SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God of life and hope, we gather this day seeking nourishment for our souls and healing for our spirits. Today we will lift our voices, raise our hands, open our hearts and allow our souls to be filled with Your spirit. You are the God of Life, and to You we give thanks for the provisions of our lives. May each word we utter, each prayer we offer and each thought we have be one of gratitude.

God in Community, Holy in One, we rejoice in our oneness in Christ, hear us as we pray in one voice the words we are taught,

*“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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen*

***THE 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.**

SCRIPTURE READING:

New Testament: Ephesians 5: 15-20 Lay Reader: Janice Thibodeau

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ As you sing psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: **“Our Song of Thanks”**

HYMN Congregations Choice

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

SHARING OUR CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

“ We covenant with God through our tithes and offerings ”

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

***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 (IN UNISON)

As we offer our gifts to you, O God, we realize we join you in feeding the hungry, in offering a welcome to outsiders, and building communities of peace and justice. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN - Congregations Choice

SENDING OUT

Go out in the world, reflect God's love on others, and let the light shine
WHERE EVER YOU GO.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - NCH # 76 “Sent Forth by God's Blessing” vs 1**

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling leave. The service is ended, O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe. The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all. God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to work for God's realm and to answer the call.

THE POSTLUDE

The end of worship, the beginning of service.

Go forth and serve God gladly.

* “We extend our spirits to God”

We Welcome all who worship with us this morning. If you are a visitor and have no church home, we hope you find a home here. If you are “passing through,” we offer you God’s blessings as you continue on your journey, and thank you for sharing with us.

WEEKLY PRAYER

God, we pray for wise and discerning spirits. Give us wisdom:

To know truth from lies

To know right from wrong

To be peacemakers amidst conflict

To be accepting of others

To give credit where credit is due

To leave behind prejudices

God, give us discernment to make us wise,

and the will to be faithful and give us the power to love. Amen.

LAY READER – Anyone wishing to share in the leadership of worship by reading the Scripture or bringing a children’s sermon, please sign-up on the appropriate list in the Parish Hall and speak with Dixie Silvestri.

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

August- Lou Scotti

Because of the uptick in Covid cases in this area, the church will now require all attendees at inside events to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status. This also applies to children over 2 years of age.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Church meeting is Sunday September 19th. All reports from boards and committee's are due by Friday August 27th. Please remember to list all committee members who served this past year.

Pastor Maryann's day off will usually be on Friday. The office will be open Monday through Friday from 9:30AM -1:00PM. In case of pastoral emergency Pastor MaryAnn can be reached at her home number 860-633-5833.

NOTES ON THE TEXT

Ephesians 5: 15-20

In this section of his letter to the Ephesians Paul is asking this new, young church community, to work out how to live out their faith together. They are working out how to be distinctively different from the wider community around them, and how they lived before they met Christ. They need to show by their words and actions that they have a new life following Jesus. There are many contrasting images used in this section to illustrate how the Christians are called to show that their new beliefs have given them a new way of living. The Ephesians are to live as wise people, making the most of the time they have because they live in a world that is far from God. Being wise means understanding what the will of God is for them. In Ephesus, drinking was heavily associated with the worship of pagan Gods and connected practices like temple prostitution and the exploitation of women. The Christians cannot take part in this as it is in opposition to the worship of God. It would not be a wise thing to do because it undermines their witness to God. Instead, the Ephesians are to dedicate themselves to what is good. They are to be filled with the Spirit, worshipping God together to build themselves up as a community and draw closer to God. They are to give thanks at all times. Practicing gratitude is sometimes suggested today as a psychological technique to get us to focus on what is good and hopeful in our lives and the world around us. Perhaps these followers of Christ needed to remind themselves that God is the source of all goodness and teach themselves to recognize God's kingdom breaking through in the world around them.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

- *Sunday (15th) **TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
10:00AM Morning Worship with Pastor MaryAnn Purtill
1:00 PM Walking Group
- *Monday (16th)
- *Tuesday (17th) 7:00PM Finance Committee Meeting
- * Wednesday (18th)
10:00 AM Fair Workshop
7:00 PM AA Meeting (In Fellowship Hall)
- *Thursday (19th)
- *Friday (20th)
- *Saturday (21st)
- *Sunday (22nd) **THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
10:00AM Morning Worship with Pastor MaryAnn Purtill
1:00 PM Walking Group

CHURCH TELEPHONE NUMBER: (860) 228-9306

e-mail: ccchurch@snet.net Website: columbiacongregationalchurch.org

Columbia Congregational Church

P.O. Box 177

Columbia, CT 06237