

***Welcome to this service of worship on the  
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.***

As Jesus Christ welcomes each one of us, we hope you sense the friendly welcome of this congregation of God's people (see back of bulletin).

[\*]If you are comfortable doing so, it is appropriate to stand.

**Bold type** signifies congregational response.

**WE GATHER IN JESUS' NAME**

HYMN SING Bishop John Selders, leader

(the congregation may remain seated)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, let us worship and bow down,  
**Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For He is our God, And we are the people of  
His pasture and the sheep of His hand.**

**\* PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

**God, I come into your presence so aware of my human frailty  
and yet overwhelmed by your love for me. I thank you that  
there is no human experience that I might walk through  
where your love cannot reach me. If I climb the highest  
mountain you are there and yet if I find myself in the darkest  
valley of my life, you are there. Teach me today to love you  
more. Help me to rest in that love that asks nothing more than  
the simple trusting heart of a child. In Jesus name, Amen.**

\* HYMN #386 *O for a World*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Hear the word of God through the prophet Isaiah:  
Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;  
remove the evil of your doings from before me;  
cease to do evil, learn to do good;  
seek justice, rescue the oppressed,  
defend the orphan, plead for the widow.  
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors,  
confident in God's steadfast love. (Isaiah 1)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God,  
we are a people formed by your Word in Christ;  
but we have wandered away from your truth,  
we have broken your commandments,  
we have distorted your teachings to serve our own ends,**

**we have failed to trust your promises, we have refused your  
mercy. Ground us again, O Holy One, in the written wisdom  
of Scripture and in the living Word which is Christ Jesus.  
Nourish us on the bread of his teachings until we can taste your  
goodness. Renew us at the fountain of his wisdom, so we may  
find joy in obedience and freedom in giving ourselves to you.  
Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news!  
God's mercy is poured out like a mighty river;  
grace flows like a never-ending stream.  
**Believe the gospel, and give thanks!  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

\*GLORIA PATRI Hymnal p. 579

**LIGHTING A CANDLE FOR PEACE**

We light a candle in our midst to stand as a beacon  
of hope, calling us and all the world from  
darkness to light, from violence to peace.  
**Lord make us instruments of your peace.**

**WELCOME**

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 29:1-13  
Pew Bible OT p. 25-26

MUSICAL SELECTION Bishop John  
Selders

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT Luke 17:1-4 Pew Bible NT p. 80

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Families Dot Com" Elder Lois Maxwell

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

\* HYMN # 358 *Help Us Accept Each Other*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and**

**renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through  
faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and  
neighbor, and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread  
of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men  
to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful  
world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy  
and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven  
and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!  
With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that  
nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of  
God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and  
to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

*Those who plan to make announcements are asked to be seated  
in the front of the church during the Peace.*

PRAYER HYMN #403 *What a Friend We have in Jesus*

**What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to  
bear! What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*The Lord's Prayer is found on the top of page 16 of the Hymnal,  
traditional version using "debts" and "debtors"*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**OFFERTORY**

\*DOXOLOGY Avery and Marsh Hymnal 593

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All Things come of thee, O Lord,  
**And of thine own have we given thee.**  
**O God, who needs not to be enriched with any gifts that we may bring, yet who loves a cheerful giver; receive these our offerings which we present before thee, and with them ourselves, our souls and bodies, a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

\*HYMN (see insert)

*We are One in the Spirit*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Go With Us, Lord*

for music see hymn 535

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way  
through this and every coming day,  
that in Your Spirit strong and true  
our lives may be our gift to You.**

POSTLUDE

*Fantasy in a minor*

Bach

**THE SERVICE**

**Flowers:** The flowers are given today in loving memory of Harold William Watson by Criss, Joy, Tom, and Bruce.

**Liturgist:** David Owusu

**Greeters:** Susan, Sarah, and David Labins

**Ushers:** June O'Neil, Keith Rhoden,  
Clifford Riley, Pauline Robertson.



Members, friends, and visitors are invited to join us as our guests for coffee and fellowship in Hodge Hall immediately following worship. The **Aboagye Family** is hosting today.

*This is a welcoming Church*, embracing sisters and brothers without regard to age, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, family status, economic situation or theological viewpoint. We want our visitors to feel a part of the family. *“Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA).”*

There is a variety of materials near the entrance to acquaint you with the Church. We encourage you to sign the guest book in the entry and to use the yellow card in the pews to register your attendance and enable us to add you to our newsletter mailing list. Please place yellow cards in the offering plates.

**Membership:** All of our services and activities are open to non-members. We invite people to commit themselves to membership as a witness to their faith in Christ, and the mission of Christ as lived out in the life of this congregation. We receive members by affirmation of faith, or by reaffirmation or transfer of membership. You may speak with the pastor or one of the elders about membership.

*Offering Envelopes* are available in the pews for the convenience of those who may have forgotten their assigned envelope or for those who wish to use an envelope for a cash gift. If you wish your contribution to be used for a specific cause, please indicate that on the envelope.

**ASSISTED LISTENING SYSTEM AVAILABLE**

Anyone who has difficulty in hearing and understanding the service is encouraged to use the assisted listening system. This is a wireless system so users can sit anywhere in the sanctuary. Receivers are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. Many of you have used a similar system at the Bushnell or Hartford Stage.



**During the service, we provide Nursery Care** in the Buchanan Room for children **up to age 4**. An usher will direct you to the location. **Shannon Hopkins** is the nursery director and **Augusta Jara** is the assistant.

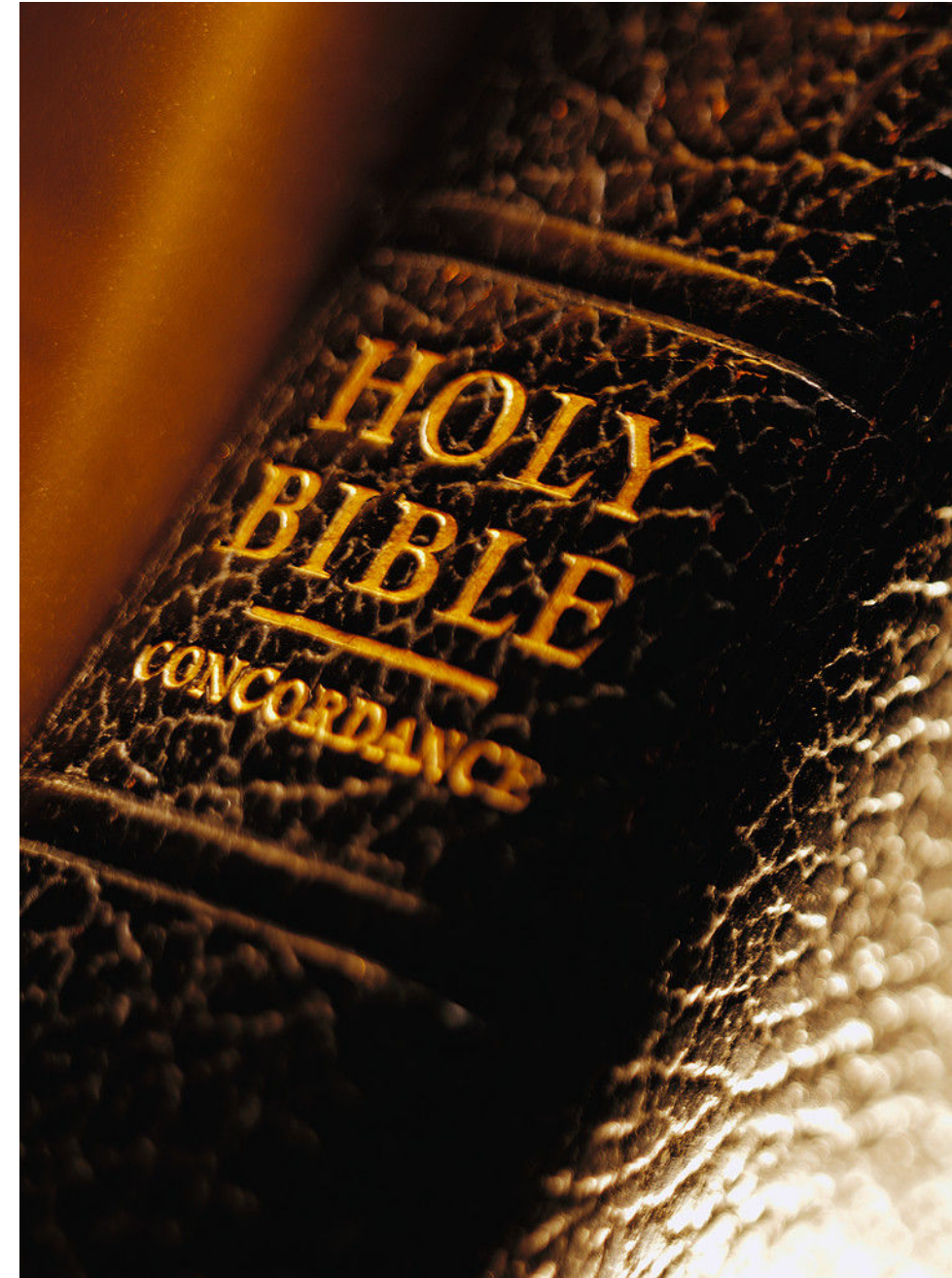
**The Abiding Memorials Book** is open to the abiding gift given in memory of **Ralph (Bud) Harris**, born June 15, 1916, died February 18, 1978, perpetuated in Rugs for the Christie and McKirdy Sunday School Rooms, dedicated April 1980.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF**

Dianne Ney, Music Director    Ruth Van Anden, Office Mgr.  
John Du Pont, Sexton

Office Hours: M – F    9:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
(Closed 12:00 – 1:00 PM)

We are a member church of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Synod of the Northeast, Presbytery of Southern New England.



First Presbyterian Church  
136 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT

860.246.2224  
[www.firstpreshartford.org](http://www.firstpreshartford.org)

Worship 10:30 AM  
Sunday, July 12, 2009