

Welcome to this service of worship. *As Jesus Christ welcomes each one of us, we hope you sense the friendly welcome of this congregation of God's people. We light the Peace Candle to stand as a beacon of hope, calling us and all the world from darkness to light, from violence to peace.*

[*]If you are comfortable doing so, it is appropriate to stand.
Bold type signifies congregational response.

WE GATHER IN JESUS' NAME

PRELUDE *One Small Child* arr. Larson
Tonya Spears, piano

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE 1ST ADVENT CANDLE...
The Gadson Family

We're on a Mission! We have come from afar and share a vision. We will help the weak, give comfort to the poor, and share the healing powers of Jesus.
We await his coming. We hear the prophecies of old. We light the Advent candle. We still seek Jesus today. We're on a Mission.

LEADER EXPLAINS ADVENT, THEN CONGREGATION CONTINUES:

God of the prophets, through long ages you offered a vision of peace. Make us ready to receive your incredible gift in Jesus Christ. Help us to live our lives expecting you to break in and surprise us. Remind us that your promises offer hope for the world, even now. Amen.

* HYMN #1 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us look within ourselves. Let us see ourselves as others see us. Give us the honest ability to confess our shortcomings to the all-forgiving Lord.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess that you sent us out, gave us eyes that saw differently, but as time has passed, our focus has dimmed. We are captives of doubt and fear, we walk away from neighbors in need, we pass by the hungry, the poor, and the powerless, and refuse to bear the burdens of the world. Help us to trust your power to change our lives, and to make us new.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**Make me know your ways, O Lord;
Teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me.**
Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love as they have been from of old.
**Do not remember the sins of my youth
According to your steadfast love remember me.**
Good and upright is the Lord, therefore he instructs sinners in the right way, He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. 25th Psalm

*RESPONSE *I Love You Lord*

**I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you.
O my soul rejoice! Take joy, my King, in what you hear: May it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.**
(Repeat)

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (unison):

We the members of this congregation welcome you with joy and thanksgiving into our fellowship and ministry. We pledge to you our Christian love, help, and prayer, as together we seek to discover God's presence among us.

HYMN #438 (vs. 1, seated) *Blessed Be the Tie that Binds*

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 33: 14-16 Pew Bible OT p. 738

ANTHEM *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying* Hopson

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod: prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God! All the valley shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low; make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, go up to the heights and sing! Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King. Like the flow'rs of the field thy perish, like grass our words decay, the pow'r and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away; but the word of our God endureth, the arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst of nations, and he will right the wrong. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, the lambs he'll gently hold; to pastures of peace he'll lead them, and bring them safe to fold.

SCRIPTURE Luke 21:25-33 Pew Bible NT p. 85-86

MESSAGE "Mission Trip 2009" Karen Spears

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN #343 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

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"

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *God of this City* Tomlin

*RESPONSE #244 *Let Us with a Gladsome Mind*

Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord who is so kind: for God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of all goodness, we give you praise and thanks for all the blessings of this life. We are grateful for: The gift of food, and the opportunity to feed others in your name; The blessing of shelter, and the challenge before us to care for the homeless; The love of friends and family, and your call to love those who are lost and alone; The fellowship of the church, and the presence of Christ in the lives of our needy brothers and sisters. You have given us much, Holy Lord, and you expect much of us. Help us to accept your blessings and your challenges with gratitude, And may we find that through your grace, blessings become challenges and challenges become blessings. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Those who have announcements are asked to please move to the front pews at this time.)

*HYMN # 8 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Gottes Sohn ist Kommen* Walther

SERVICE

Flowers: The flowers today are given by George and Carolyn Blick in Thanksgiving for Youth so willing to share their time and talent with others, and for a Congregation so willing to support them in so many ways. Also in celebration of Ben Klein and Ruth Bergman's joining the congregation and for all they add to its life and work.

Service Participants: Akosua Adzenyah, Marissa Cort, Solana Gadson, David Labins, Sarah Labins, Grant Spears, Karen Spears, Carolyn Blick, George Blick.

Acolyte: Keenan Gadson
Greeters: Juliana Mantey, Grace Buabeng
Ushers: June O'Neil, Keith Rhoden, Jr., 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.

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.

All of our services and activities are open to non-members.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Russell Feroe, Interim Minister. Office Hours 8:30 am – 12:00 noon Tue., Wed., Thu. E-mail: rferoe@sbcglobal.net or call: 860-904-6467 anytime.

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.



Louisville 2009



- Youth Mission -

First Presbyterian Church

136 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT
Rev. Russell Feroe, Interim Minister

Worship 10:30 AM
Sunday, November 29, 2009