



Southern Fairfield Cooperative Parish
 Worship & Church Conferences
 Sunday, November 12, 2023
 UMC of New Canaan

“Two are better than one because they have a good return for their hard work.”
 Ecclesiastes 4:9

GATHERING MUSIC

Brian Zuro, Music Director, UMC of New Canaan

WELCOME

Rev. Matthew Curry, UMC of New Canaan

PRELUDE

Seek Ye First

The New Canaan Intergenerational Bell Choir, directed by Rose Ogrinc

*CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Psalm 133 Rev. Leo Curry, First Church Round Hill, Greenwich

How good and pleasant it is when all of God’s people live together in unity!

Though we may be inclined to brag, let us come together with humility.

How good and pleasant it is when all of God’s people live together in unity.

Though we may be tempted to use harsh words, let us come together with gentleness.

How good and pleasant it is when all of God’s people live together in unity.

Though we may want everything to happen quickly, let us come together with patience.

How good and pleasant it is when all of God’s people live together in unity.

Though the world around often encourages hate, let us come together in love.

How good and pleasant it is when all of God’s people live together in unity.

In humility, gentleness, patience, love, and unity,

Let us worship the God who has called us to be stronger together!

Adapted from Joanna Harader, SpaciousFaith.com

*OPENING HYMN

We Gather Together

UMH 131

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRIES

Rev. Heather Sinclair, UMC of Westport & Weston,
 Cooperative Parish Coordinator

ANTHEM

Shine, Jesus, Shine
 Cooperative Parish Choir

G. Kendrick, arr. J. Schrader

Children Pre-k to High School age are welcome to attend Sunday School upstairs.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 5:17-26

Rev. David Piscatelli, First UMC, Stamford

SERMON

“Stronger Together”

Rev. Inkoo Chung, NY CT District Superintendent

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Together We Serve

TFWS 2175

OFFERING

Rev. Rúben Rivera Martinez, Cornerstone Community Church, Norwalk

Checks for the Community Thanksgiving Luncheon should be written to Cornerstone Community Church with "CTL" on the memo line.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Lead Me, Lord* S. S. Wesley
Cooperative Parish Choir

DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 95

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Laura Galbraith, Darien UMC & Rowayton UMC

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Dong Hyun Choi, First UMC & New Life UMC, Greenwich

O Lord, forgive us when we fail to respond to your call with faith.

Through your Spirit we stand in the assurance of your acceptance.

Forgive us when we are restricted by our narrow understandings of discipleship and our clouded sense of purpose.

Through your Spirit we are drawn into the illumination of your empowering love.

Forgive us when we are frightened of the future or pull back from the demand of your calling.

Forgive us when we fail to sense your presence in our past, to acknowledge your grace in the present moment, and to trust you for our future.

Through your Spirit we offer ourselves in discipleship.

We stand together as your disciples. We seek renewed and renewing faith.

Bless us with your Spirit of forgiveness, grace and wholeness.

Adapted from P. Judd, cofchrist.org

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

INVITATION TO THE COMMUNION TABLE *Adapted from enfleshed.com*

THE LORD'S PRAYER *You are invited to pray in the version and language of your heart.*

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

In the United Methodist Church, all who wish to receive the love and grace of Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. We will partake of the pre-packaged, gluten-free wafer and cup together. If you did not receive communion elements when you entered the sanctuary, please raise your hand and an usher will serve you. If you are worshipping at home, the blessing of the table extends to the bread and cup in your worship space.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *Sonatina* M. Clementi
John Hoddinott, guitar & Ahyoung Son, piano, UMC of Westport and Weston

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Rev. Cedric Johnson, Diamond Hill UMC, Cos Cob

*CLOSING HYMN *This Is My Song* UMH 437

BENEDICTION Rev. Inkoo Chung

POSTLUDE

The Altar Flowers are dedicated "in loving memory of our infant son, Jeffrey Peter, by Carol and George Bauer."