

ANNOUNCEMENTS and WELCOME

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our soul waits for God; God is our help and shield. Our heart is glad in him, because we trust God's holy name.

ALL: Let your steadfast love be upon us even as we hope in you

One: God is faithful, rewarding those who keep their hope strong, who are tenacious and enduring.

ALL: Trusting in the mercy and goodness of God, we come to offer praise with rejoicing, and to pray with boldness and persistence.

*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.

*HYMN No. 251

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Reginald Heber

INVOCATION

One: Faithful God, we praise you for your perseverance in reaching for us, knocking at the door of our heart with persistence, waiting for response.

ALL: As we worship together, grant us this same tenacity in seeking you, in listening and waiting for awareness of your presence, your speaking and moving among us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Sovereign Jesus, we need your teaching about persistence as your first disciples did. We are too often careless and inattentive in our relationship with you.

ALL: Forgive our failure to keep faith and persist, learn and grow in relationship with you.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON & CELEBRATION

One: Our sins continue to haunt us and destroy our peace, but God's grace lifts us from the pit of self-condemnation

ALL: Praise God who, with persistent love, seeks and finds us and gives us new life.

Responsorial Psalm #138 (unison)

One: With my whole heart I thank you, God; before all powers sing your praise. I turn toward you to honor you, giving thanks for your constancy; your name is above all names, your faithfulness supreme. When I called for help, you gave me of your strength.

ALL: Thanks be unto you, O God.

One: All who rule in the world give praise because they hear your words; they sing of your ways and celebrate your greatness, from the heights you lift up the lowly and humble the arrogant.

ALL: Thanks be unto you, O God.

One: In the midst of trouble you keep me safe, in the face of my enemies you raise your hand. I know you will do the things you have promised, and fulfill your purpose for me. Your love, O God, endures forever; continue in us what you have begun.

ALL: Thanks be unto you, O God.

ANTHEM

"As The Deer"

Martin Nystrom
Deborah Smith-Steinberg,
soprano
Carleton Smith, baritone

*HYMN No. 14

"The God of Abraham Praise"

Thomas Olivers

TIME FOR SHARING OUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS

PRAYERFUL CONCERNS AND JOYS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (using "Trespases")

Hymnal page 513

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY

"When In God Our Music is Glorified"

Timothy Albrecht

RECEPTION OF THE GIFTS

Weekly the bell tolls to remember the number of American military casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan, followed by a moment of silence.+

*DOXOLOGY

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

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

TIME FOR HEARING AND INTERPRETING GOD'S WORD

INTRODUCTION TO LESSON READING

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28-34

Pew Bible page 881

SERMON

*“What Commandment
Is First of All?”*

The Reverend Dr.
Craig T. McClellan

TIME FOR RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

* **HYMN #7** *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”* Walter Chalmers Smith

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** *“Toccatta”* Flor Peeters

*All who are able are invited to stand.
+Estimates indicate there are twenty civilian and military Iraqi casualties for each American casualty.

Our guest minister today, the Rev. Dr. Craig McClellan, is also the pastor-on-call during the month of July. He may be reached at (203)263-2410.

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Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday

Pastor: The Reverend Stanley E. Youngberg, Interim Minister

Pastor’s Hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.

Pastor’s E-mail: stanyoungberg@gmail.com

***THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WOODBURY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST***

JULY 25, 2010 10:00 A.M.

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome!

We are a Christian community, dedicated to welcoming those who seek a relationship with God, to sharing God’s transforming word and love and to nurturing all in their journey of faith.

To all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are tired and in need of rest; to all who are friendless and want fellowship; to all who are lonely and want companionship; to all who are celebrating and want to share the joy; to whosoever enters: this Church opens its doors in the name of Christ our Lord and says welcome!

Whoever you are, where ever you are on life’s journey; you are welcome here.



MEDITATION

In Christ our sins have been forgiven, we who were dead are now alive;
Closer than the closest human friend, the Lord communes in heart and mind.

PRELUDE

“Choral Song”

Samuel Wesley

Let us use this time for prayerful reflection as we open our hearts to the gift of the music.

Please mute your cell phones and pagers. Thank you.