



**THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER UCC
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018**

VISION STATEMENT

*We are the Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ,
an inclusive community committed to the worship of God, the work of justice,
and the recognition of our common humanity in the struggles of life.*

We follow Jesus Christ, who welcomes all people to his table.

*We celebrate the rich diversity of God's people:
in race, gender, age, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities,
marital and economic status and culture.*

*Join us on a journey of the Holy Spirit,
where faith and intellect meet, learning never ends,
and music and the arts draw us closer to our Creator.*

WELCOME

We are pleased that you could join us this morning; wherever you are on your life and faith journey, you are welcome at the Church of the Redeemer. If you have any questions, please speak with an usher at the back of the Sanctuary. If you would like more information about the church, fill out the visitor information form at the back of this bulletin and put it in an offering plate. We hope you will join us after the service at Coffee Hour for a time of fellowship – go out the side door and follow the crowds.

ABOUT US

The Church of the Redeemer is an open and affirming, theologically progressive, mainline Protestant church affiliated with the United Church of Christ (UCC). It was founded as a Congregational church in New Haven in 1838. Our identity is summarized by our vision statement.

CHILDCARE DURING AND AFTER CHURCH

Children are always welcome in church. Activity bags for older children and rocking chairs for adults with babies are available at the rear of the sanctuary. We have a nursery downstairs for children through age 6; you can take your child there at any time (follow the "Nursery" signs in the Tower Lobby or ask the ushers at the back).

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR THE OLDER CHILDREN

Children in preschool through grade 6 are invited to join their teachers downstairs for Sunday School during the Passing of the Peace. Visitors are welcome to join our classes or remain in worship.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES

If you are having trouble reading this bulletin or hearing the service, the ushers can provide you with a large-print bulletin or an assistive listening device.

SAYING GOODBYE TO HANK SYKES

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us welcome one another with the traditional Christian greeting

"Peace be with you." "And also with you."

*Our children and teachers are invited to leave at this time to go downstairs for
Church school.*

*Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers through age 6. Parents may
accompany new children to get them settled and return to worship at any time.*

*Activity bags are available in the rear of the sanctuary for those children that
remain in the worship service.*

TESTIMONY

Tony Forman

HYMN OF PREPARATION *please stand*

God of the sparrow
#32 New Century Hymnal

SCRIPTURE

Acts 8:26-40

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Leader:

God is still speaking.

People:

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Unlikely Disciples

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS AND SILENT MEDITATION

Prayer requests may be offered aloud at this time.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *unison*

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Felix Mendelssohn

from *Elijah*

Lift thine eyes

Sarah Reed, soprano; Julia Blue Raspe, mezzo-soprano

Holly Berry, alto

OFFERTORY

Call to Offering

Offertory Anthem Herbert Howells

from *Requiem*

Psalm 121

Brian Robinson, bass

Paul Berry, tenor

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills:
from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh even from the Lord:
who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself is thy keeper:
he is thy defense upon thy right hand;
so that the sun shall not burn thee by day:
neither the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil:
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in:
from this time forth and for evermore.

Congregational Doxology

(Tune: Lasst uns erfreuen)

**Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship God in humbleness:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God and Jesus Christ the Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One:**

**O Praise God, O Praise God.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Prayer of Dedication

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Love divine, all loves excelling
see page 9

BENEDICTION

AMEN

Please sing with the choir

God be with you
Verse 1: choir
Verses 2 and 3: all

Unison *Harmony*

1 God be with you till we meet a-gain; lov - ing coun - sels
2 God be with you till we meet a-gain; un - seen wings pro -
3 God be with you till we meet a-gain; when life's per - ils

guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en - fold you:
tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you:
thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a - round you:

Unison

God be with you till we meet a - gain.

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POSTLUDE

J.S. Bach

Jesu, meine Freude

*Please be seated during the postlude and use this time for silent reflection.
Please join us for refreshments in the Sterling Room following worship this morning.
You can get to the Sterling Room by exiting the side door at the front of the
sanctuary.*

THANK YOU TO THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Reader: Bob Parker

Hospitality: Nate Brown and Melissa Knauert Brown

Ushers: Wes and Carol Poling, and Jon Reed

Nursery: Bailey Sullivan

Sunday School Teachers: Tony Pellegrino, Beth Pellegrino, and Brad Czepiel
Sunday School Shepherd: Caryne Eskridge

Thank you to Bobby Rebholz for the art work on today's bulletin cover.



Next Sunday

Hospitality: Next Steps Luncheon

Ushers: Brad, Kathy and Meggie Czepiel

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - mighty to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem-bling heart.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff contains the melody, and the bass staff contains the accompaniment. The lyrics are written in three lines between the staves. The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The piece ends with a double bar line.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting: Sunday, April 29, 2018

A Congregational Meeting called by the Leadership Council will be held immediately following the worship service on Sunday, April 29, 2018, for the following purposes:

1. To vote on the approval of the minutes from the Special Congregational Meeting held on December 3, 2017.
2. To hear and vote on the revised 2018 budget as amended to include expected expenses for the period July 1 through December 31, 2018.
3. To hear and vote on a resolution to borrow from the endowment fund if more than 5% of its value is approved in the revised budget.
4. To hear and vote to approve the summary entitled “The Church of the Redeemer on One Page” with such changes as approved at the meeting, and to authorize its distribution to churches being considered for partnership.
5. To hear and act upon any other business brought before the congregation.

Copies of the relevant documents will be distributed by email and made available from the Church office in advance and on the date of the meeting.

The Leadership Council encourages you to attend this important meeting. A quorum for the meeting consists of 20% of all members and associate members, and the affirmative vote of a majority of those members and associate members present at the meeting will be required to approve each action item.

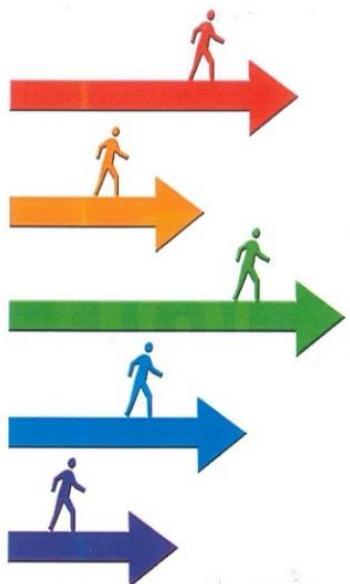
Kay Comendul, Clerk

THE EVENING BOOK GROUP

The next meeting of the Evening Book group will be on Monday, May 21 at 7:30 pm to discuss *The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck. The group will meet at the home of Kathryn Gaffney. All are welcome.

THE KNITTING GROUP

The Knitting Group meets every third Thursday of the month at 2:30 in the afternoon in the Sterling Room. Please join us for this vital ministry of creating prayer shawls for those who need comfort in difficult times. The pattern is very simple and we will teach the stitches to anyone who joins us. We also can supply the yarn. We would love to have some new members! The next meeting is May 17.



An All-Church Gathering

NEXT STEPS: Part 9!

Sunday, May 6, 2018

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

***We'll explore two lanes:
"Re-create" and "Downsize"***

Among other questions, we'll discuss how Redeemer might focus resources (staff, funds, member participation) to become sustain-able and flourish. If you'd like to be part of preparing for this session, please contact Moderator, Bob Parker.

Lunch & childcare will be provided!

YOUTH GROUP

Next Sunday, May 6th, Youth will meet for Vision Night to help create the 2019 Youth Group & Confirmation event calendar for next year!

Be sure to mark your calendar and save the date for **Beach Day on May 20th!** Your friends are welcome and we will have details to come.

CHURCH MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Sunday, April 29, 2018

8:55 am Senior Choir, sanctuary
9:30 am Chancel choir, sanctuary
10:00 am Worship and Sunday school
11:15 am Children's Choirs rehearse
11:30 am Congregational Meeting, sanctuary

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

7:30 pm Leadership Council, Phillips

Thursday, May 3, 2018

7:45 pm Senior Choir, sanctuary

Sunday, May 6, 2018

8:55 am Senior Choir, sanctuary
10:00 am Worship and Sunday school
11:15 am Children's Choirs rehearse
11:30 am Next Steps: Part 9, Sterling
5:00 pm Youth Group, Vision Night

SAFE CHURCH POLICY

The Church of the Redeemer aspires to provide a safe environment for people of all ages; physical and sexual abuse and harassment will not be tolerated in any way. The full text of our Safe Church policy is available on our website.

REDEEMER OFFICE HOURS

The Redeemer office is open Mondays through Fridays from 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. You may also contact the office by sending an email to redeemer@uccredeemer.org.

CONTACT REVEREND MURTHA

Susan may be reached via the Redeemer office at (203) 787-5711. You may also reach her via email at susanjdarc@gmail.com or by telephone at (203) 936-9356.

WELCOME VISITORS TO THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER UCC!

Please let us know more about you and how we can serve you.

Please complete this card and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

I would like to be on your mailing list to receive newsletter (email or USPS)

I would like information about Sunday School for my children:

Name(s)/Ages(s): _____

I would like a call from the Pastor.



The Church of the Redeemer

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Join us on Facebook at Church of the Redeemer New Haven
Susan J. Murtha, Interim Senior Minister
susanjdarc@gmail.com

Jordan Rebholz, Minister for Faith Formation
Robert Parker, Moderator of the Church
Henry Sykes, Treasurer
Kay Comendul, Clerk
Marguerite Brooks, Director of Music
Julia Blue Raspe, Chancel Choir Director and Alto Section Leader
Paul Berry, Boys' Choir Director and Tenor Section Leader
Sarah Reed, Soprano Section Leader
Brian Robinson, Bass Section Leader
Larry Bishop, Organist
Barbara Repetsky, Office Administrator and Financial Secretary
Collin Morrissey, Security
Lou and Valarie Fanelli, Sextons
Nadine Alexander, Nursery Attendant
Emily Novicki, Nursery Attendant