

North Branford Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
The Order of Worship for Sunday, October 23, 2022
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude *Tis So Sweet To Trust in Jesus* Arr. K. Brasee

GATHERING

Greetings

*Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Good morning, Church! In these busy days, so many things can grab our attention and fill our time.

People: But let us seek first the kingdom of God.

Leader: In these moments together, may our worship, our listening and our praying draw us closer to our King and to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

People: Let us seek first the kingdom of God.

All: Lord, speak to our hearts, strengthen our faith and help us to praise you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

* Chorus: Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin. God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied; come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

*Prayer of Invocation & The Lord's Prayer - Together, as one.

Holy Spirit, in this time together, please still the stress, the inner clutter and the distractions that press on us. Help us to find peace and rest in you. Teach us to focus on what really matters. Strengthen us for the week ahead, nurture the seed of faith in us so that we may grow day by day.

And as we have prayed to you, Holy Spirit, we now pray to you, Dear Father, with the words your Son taught us...

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 for ever. Amen

*Hymn of Praise & Preparation *Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation*
BH p.400

PREPARING

Readings from the Old Testament Psalm 47 (responsive)
A Reading from the Epistles Colossians 1: 9-14

The Offertory Invitation

Presenting of our Offerings, Gifts & Tithes

*Offertory Response: Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise

*Prayer of Confession and Dedication - Together, as one.

Lord, we give you thanks for the word that you hide like a treasure in our heart. Help us to value that which you have given us - to make following Christ the most important thing in our daily lives. Guide us in doing your will, sharing your love and the good news you have proclaimed through Jesus with one another and with the world. Forgive us for forgetting that faith as small as a mustard seed can still be effective. We give you thanks for the wonders of our heritage and for the new things that you continue to do in our midst. We dedicate our offerings and our lives to you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Children's Message

Gift of Music: *All Good Gifts* Schwartz

PRAYERS OF & FOR THE PEOPLE

Prayers of Joy and Concern; Testimonies of God's Work in our Lives
Time of Silence
Pastoral Prayer

*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.**

PROCLAIMING

A Reading from the Gospel Matthew 13: 31-35, 44-45

Sermon: *The King in Kingdom*

PARTING

*Hymn of Sending Forth *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* RH p.7

*Call to Service & Benediction

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Pastor: As disciples of Christ, we have been graced with Christ's peace,
peace for our own lives, peace to share. And so with great joy, I
gift you the peace of our Lord.

People: As I gift you.

Pastor: Let us now share that peace of Christ with each other by waving,
and by calling, e-mailing and texting those from whom we're
physically apart. And let us carry that peace of Christ with us into
this Season of Pentecost, and into our world, as we together say,
AMEN!

Postlude *How Great Is Our God* (Tomlinson)

Deacon – Joanne Palmieri
Preacher/Worship Leader– Wendy Tarry
Music Director – Kelliann Festa
Ministers – Our Members!

Prayer of Confession and Dedication adapted from <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/search?q=Proper+12A>

WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER!

North Branford Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

*Christ-centered Teaching
Scripture-based Preaching
To our neighbors: Outreaching*



October 23, 2022

MATTHEW 13:31-35, 44-45

PSALM 47

- ¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.
- ² **For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.**
- ³ He subdued peoples under us and nations under our feet.
- ⁴ **He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.**
- ⁵ God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- ⁶ **Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.**
- ⁷ For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.^[a]
- ⁸ **God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.**
- ⁹ **The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.**

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” ³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” ³⁴ Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. ³⁵ This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: “I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden since the foundation.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;

COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

*When I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.
In God, whose word
I praise—in God I trust
and am not afraid.
What can mere mortals
do to me?
- Psalm 56:3-4*