

North Branford Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
The Order of Worship for Sunday, May 15, 2022
The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prelude *Guardian Angel* Frank, arr. Van Antwerpen

GATHERING

Greetings

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Good morning, Church! Let us remind ourselves of God's unfailing presence with words from the 139th psalm. "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?"

People: If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

Leader: If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

People: even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." (Psalm 139: 7-10)

All: Lord, thank you that there is no where we can go where you are not. We worship you, our faithful and loving God. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Cantored Chorus: Now the green blade rises, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain; Love lives again, that with
the dead has been: Love is come again like wheat that rises green.
(Virtual Choir)

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

Holy Spirit, when I find myself in situations that test my beliefs or make it hard to know what to do, please guide me. Give me the strength, patience and courage to stay faithful in difficult circumstances. Like Daniel and his friends, help me to be steadfast in doing what is right, even if others do not understand my choices.

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 *Just A Closer Walk With Thee*

PREPARING

A Reading from the Gospels John 4: 27-34

A Reading from the Epistles James 1:12

The Offertory Invitation

Presenting of our Offerings, Gifts & Tithes

Cantored Offertory Response: For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies. Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Prayer of Confession and Dedication - Together, as one.

Lord, thank you for the big and little ways you provide for us every day, even in the toughest times. Forgive us for when we forget to be grateful, focusing on what we don't have instead of what we do. Show us the little ways we can make a difference in the lives of the people around us, sharing our faith in generous and compassionate living. We dedicate our offerings and our lives to you and in Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Children's Message

Gift of Music: *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* Lemmel, arr. MaCalinta

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 Old Testament Daniel 1: 1-21, 2:1-3

Sermon *When the Rubber Hits the Road!*

PARTING

Hymn of Sending Forth *Great Is Your Faithfulness* BH p423

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 Easter, and into our world, as we together say,
AMEN!

Postlude They Will Know We are Christians By Our Love (trad)

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

WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER!

North Branford Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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



May 15, 2022

JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE

1 I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2 Thro' this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

3 When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

JOHN 4:27-34

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.

JAMES 1:12

¹² Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

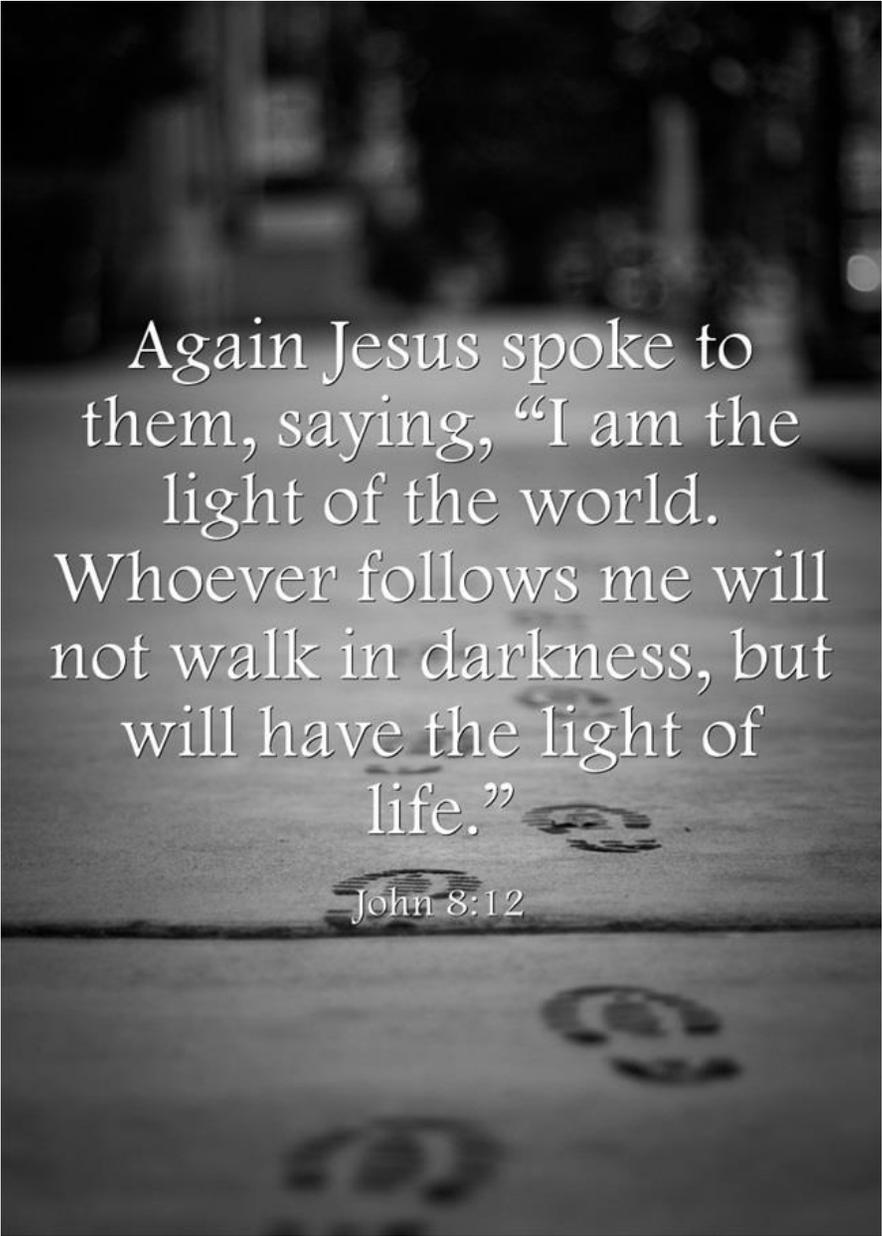
DANIEL 1: 1-21, 2:1-3

1 In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² The Lord gave King Jehoiakim of Judah into his power, as well as some of the vessels of the house of God. These he brought to the land of Shinar,^[a] and he placed the vessels in the treasury of his gods. ³ Then the king commanded his palace master Ashpenaz to bring some of the Israelites of the royal family and of the nobility: ⁴ young men without physical defect and handsome, versed in every branch of wisdom, endowed with knowledge and insight, and competent to serve in the king's palace; they were to be taught the literature and language of the Chaldeans. ⁵ The king assigned them a daily portion of the royal rations of food and wine. They were to be educated for three years, so that at the end of that time they could be stationed in the king's court. ⁶ Among them were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, from the tribe of Judah. ⁷ The palace master gave them other names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called

Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego. ⁸ But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the royal rations of food and wine, so he asked the palace master to allow him not to defile himself. ⁹ Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion from the palace master. ¹⁰ The palace master said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king; he has appointed your food and your drink. If he should see you in poorer condition than the other young men of your age, you would endanger my head with the king." ¹¹ Then Daniel asked the guard whom the palace master had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: ¹² "Please test your servants for ten days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink." ¹³ You can then compare our appearance with the appearance of the young men who eat the royal rations and deal with your servants according to what you observe." ¹⁴ So he agreed to this proposal and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵ At the end of ten days it was observed that they appeared better and fatter than all the young men who had been eating the royal rations. ¹⁶ So the guard continued to withdraw their royal rations and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables. ¹⁷ To these four young men God gave knowledge and skill in every aspect of literature and wisdom; Daniel also had insight into all visions and dreams. ¹⁸ At the end of the time that the king had set for them to be brought in, the palace master brought them into the presence of Nebuchadnezzar, ¹⁹ and the king spoke with them. Among them all, no one was found to compare with Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they were stationed in the king's court. ²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding concerning which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. ²¹ And Daniel continued there until the first year of King Cyrus.

DANIEL 2:1-3

2 In the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed such dreams that his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him. ² So the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. When they came in and stood before the king, ³ he said to them, "I have had such a dream that my spirit is troubled by the desire to understand it."



Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12