

North Branford Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
The Order of Worship for Sunday, October 9, 2022
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude *Nearer My God To Thee* Arr. Mier

GATHERING

Greetings

*Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Good morning, Church! Let us gather together in God's presence with expectation, hungry for an encounter with God, eager to hear His Word.

People: Lord, open our eyes and ears to the presence of your Holy Spirit. May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us this morning fall on fertile soil.

Leader: May they take root in our hearts and lives, and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds.

People: We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and Lord.

All: Come, let us worship! 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, as we continue to learn about the parables of Jesus, please let these powerful stories touch my heart. Help me to reflect, to honestly look inward, and, with your guidance, to change to be more like Jesus. May the lessons I learn through the parables be shown in my words, my deeds and my worship.

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 *Lord of All Hopefulness, Lord of All Joy*
RH p.217

PREPARING

Readings from the Old Testament Isaiah 55: 8-11

A Reading from the Epistles 1 Corinthians 3: 5-9

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.

Father, you sow the seed of your Word with all different kinds of people. But we have not always been ready to receive your seeds or to recognize them growing in the lives of others. Forgive us. Help us to be good soil, O God, prepared to receive your Word and to grow an abundant crop. Teach us to tend to what you have planted in our lives and to share our blessings with a world in need. We dedicate our offerings and our lives to you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Children's Message

Gift of Music: *Psalm 42* (T. Kelly) Lucy Berte', soloist

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: 1-9

Sermon: *How's It Growing?*

PARTING

*Hymn of Sending Forth *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* BH p.76

*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 *You Are My All In All* Jernigan, Arr. Raluca Bojor

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

Call to Worship adapted from a prayer by Christine Longhurst
https://cmbs.mennonitebrethren.ca/worship_resources/sower-and-the-seed-the/ *Prayer of
Dedication adapted from [https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1137/worship-
connection-july-12-2020](https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1137/worship-connection-july-12-2020) by Nancy C. Townley*

WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER!

North Branford Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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



October 9, 2022

ISAIAH 55:8-11

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-9

⁵ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will receive wages according to their own labor. ⁹ For we are God's coworkers, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

MATTHEW 13:1-9

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

