

North Branford Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
The Order of Worship for Sunday, August 7, 2022
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude *I Love To Tell The Story* Hankey

GATHERING

Greetings

*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 16: 7-11)

Leader: Good morning, Church! We know that God is always with us,

People: So we come this morning to remind ourselves that we are with God.

Leader: In this time of worship, may our hearts be glad.

People: May our souls rejoice; may our bodies rest secure.

Leader: God shows us the path of life and in God's presence there is fullness of joy.

All: We are so glad to be together in God's presence!

*Chorus: Come Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise, Teach me some melodious sonnet, Sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of God's unchanging love.

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

Holy Spirit, when we grow weary or discouraged, please remind us of the examples of faith that have gone before us. May their choice to live for Jesus, challenge and inspire us. And help us to follow Christ each day in such a way that others are encouraged by our words and deeds to continue on in their journey of faith.

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 *All Thing Bright and Beautiful*
RH p.478 (3rd verse plus end w refrain)

PREPARING

A Reading from the Epistles Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

The Offertory Invitation

Presenting of our Offerings, Gifts & Tithes

*Offertory Response: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

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

Loving God, your Word teaches us "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matt 6:21) Forgive us when we have focused on ourselves and failed to live with compassion for others. Give us the courage and wisdom to invest our time, talent and resources in sharing your love with those in need. We dedicate our offerings and our lives to you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Children's Message

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.

HEBREWS 11:1-3, 8-16

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." ¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

LUKE 12:32-40

³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ³⁵ "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. ³⁹ "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."