

CELEBRATING THE SABBATH
Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 13, 2021 at 10 o'clock



...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

PRELUDE

This Is My Father's World

arr. Bill Ingram

The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube, director

Prelude on St. Columba

Charles Stanford

SHARING OUR WELCOME VIRTUALLY

*WE COME TO WORSHIP #279

Sisters and brothers – Arise.

Lift your hearts

Lift your eyes

Lift your voices.

The living God, the living, moving Spirit of God has called us together –

in witness

in celebration

in struggle.

Reach out toward each other.

Our God reaches out toward us!

Let us worship God!

Elizabeth Rice

HYMN # 475, VERSES: 1,3,5

The Church of Christ in Every Age

[Click here to see hymn](#)

The choir will sing the first hymn

**The church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.**

**Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

**We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all, without reserve, and spread Christ's liberating word.**

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*OPENING PRAYER

As we gather for worship, we come with the events of the past week fresh in our minds: Our burdens, our achievements, our worries about friends and family, our anxieties about world events.

O God, help us to be witnesses to your surprising good news, even as we carry our burdens into the week ahead; challenging injustice when we meet it, and praying for the life of the world.

We give thanks for the life of Jesus who redeems us and has given us an example of a faithful life. We seek to be witnesses to his life in our own lives. Help us to be renewed and encouraged today in worship together – we celebrate that your spirit is at once known and unknown, working in us and working beyond us, witnessed and mysterious. Amen.

A MOMENT FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Lauren Dube

SELECTION

For the Beauty of the Earth
The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube, director

arr. Bill Ingram

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Acts 5:27-32](#)

Kelly Munro

SERMON

...And More Surprise Witnesses

Erica Avena

CELEBRATING MILESTONES

A TIME OF PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance "GHIAA"

HYMN #477

Pass it On
Join as you are able!

[Click here to see hymn](#)

**It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone, you want to pass it on.**

**What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.**

**I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found –
on God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.**

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BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Jaak Lemmens

PLEASE JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING OUR 2021 GRADUATES

High School

Jackson Carbone*

Joey Lorenzo

Maggie Mieczkowski

Carolyn Quinn*

Ethan Schuck

Jack Wilkins

College

Ruthie Harrison

Lizzy Quinn

Ethan Wilkins

*First Church Scholarship recipient

Questions for reflection and discussion:

- What cause or person have you remained committed to over time? Why?
- What have you witnessed or experienced, that other people may not readily understand?
- As we emerge from what we hope has been the worst of the pandemic, what will you remember that has been important about this season?