

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 7, 2008

10:00 AM

MINISTERS:

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

PASTOR:

THE REV. JOHN DAVID HEECKT

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

JEAN EARLY

*In consideration of those preparing for worship, please refrain from distracting conversations upon entering the Meetinghouse.*

GATHERING AND PREPARATION

The Church Bell Calls Us To Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship: *(The Third Song of Isaiah: Isaiah 60)*

One: Arise, shine, for your light had come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

All: For behold, darkness covers the land; deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.

One: But over you the Lord will rise, and his glory will appear over you.

All: Nations will stream to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawning.

One: Your gates will always be open; by day or night they will never be shut.

All: They will call you, The City of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

One: Violence will no more be heard in your land, ruin or destruction within your borders.

All: You will call your walls, Salvation, and all your portals, Praise.

One: The sun will no more be your light by day; by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.

All: The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

\*Hymn: *When Israel Was in Egypt's Land*

NCH 572

\*Unison Prayer:

Almighty God; to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from

whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name. Through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

\*The Lord's Prayer *(using "sins")*

\*The 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.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-14 N.T. Pg. 58/L.P. Pg. 72

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 119:57-64 O.T. Pg. 567/L.P. Pg. 697

Second Reading: Matthew 18:15-20 N.T. Pg. 20/L.P. Pg. 24

Anthem: *Simple Gifts* Trad. Shaker Melody, arr. Page/Schafferman

Children's Sermon

\*Hymn: *Immortal Love, Forever Full* NCH 166

Sermon

RESPONDING IN FAITH

\*Hymn: *Be Thou My Vision* PH 391

Offering: *Bread of the World* Goudimel

Offertory:

Doxology: PH 515

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God: Through the gift of your Son you have given us freedom from sin and the opportunity for a more abundant life in him. Receive now our gifts, we pray, and put them to your use, both in this congregation and beyond, for the support of your church, and to the honor of your holy Name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*The Lord's Table is open to all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people. Deacons ask parents to reflect on communion and its meaning with their children.*

### **The Confession**

**One:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, let us stand together and confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**\*All:** Most merciful God; we confess that we are in bondage to sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways. Amen.

**\*One:** Almighty God has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. May the peace of God be always with you.

**\*All:** And also with you.

### **The Communion Prayer**

#### **Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

#### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## GOING OUT TO SERVE

**\*Hymn:** *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* NCH 337

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*(\*All who are able, please stand.)*

# RIDGEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GATHERED 1760

Ridgebury Road at George Washington Highway  
605 Ridgebury Road, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877

203-748-2806

[www.ridgeburychurch.org](http://www.ridgeburychurch.org)

