## APRIL 28, 2024 | THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE WORSHIP AT WESTFIELD SERVICE OF WORD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take a moment to complete the care pad in your pew.

Peace be with you. And also with you.

## PRELUDE

## INVOCATION

Come, sing a new song to the Lord, for he has done wonderful deeds! He has won a mighty victory by his power and holiness.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** 

THE HOLY SPIRIT GATHERS US IN UNITY ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, THE DAY OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION.

\*PLEASE RISE BODY OR SPIRIT

Z

The whole earth has seen the salvation of our God!

God, you promise never to forsake us, but to bring us to life, nurture us with your presence, and sustain us even in the hour of our death. Meet us in our deepest doubts when we feel abandoned, drowning in our fear of your absence. Visit us in the tension between our yearning and our anger, that we may know your mercy and grace in our time of need. **Amen**.

\*WELCOME



## **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Divine Gardener cannot sow seeds of justice and peace where there is nothing but hearts of dry, hard rocks. We confess that our hearts may need tilling and the digging out of the deeply rooted sins that crowd out seedlings planted with divine compassion.

God of steadfast love, you change bitter tears of remorseful hearts with raindrops of mercy, **Now let us germinate a new life, growing with integrity!** 

God of steadfast love, you change the cold shame of contrite hearts with sunrays of mercy **Now let us sprout a new life, growing with honesty!** 

God of steadfast love, you change the stony edges of repentant hearts into landscapes of mercy, **Now let us branch out into new life, growing with generosity!** 

#### **\*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE**

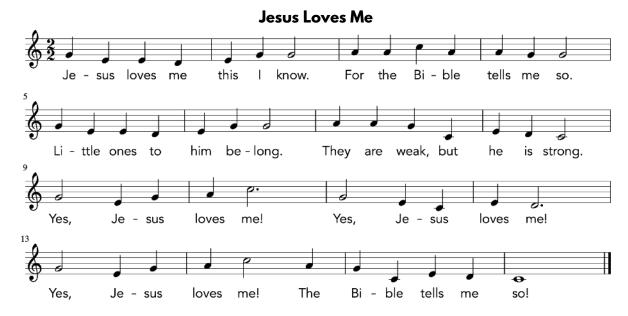
Divine Gardener, You tend us in steadfast love, Unending mercies, and eternal faithfulness; you cultivate true friendship with you through boundless forgiveness. In Christ, this faithful love is planted in our hearts. Gathered as your community of believers, our family of faith, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us, we can now produce forgiveness for each other as we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!** 



SE RISE OR SPIRIT



CHILDREN'S TIME All are invited to sing as the children come join the pastor in the front of the sanctuary.



Children under 6th grade wishing to take part in Sunday School may leave at this time.

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

#### JOHN 15:1-8 NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

#### THE MESSAGE

"I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

"Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

"I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

#### **RESPONSE TO READING**

Through this scripture, God is still speaking. And we are listening.

#### SERMON THE REV. DR. JONATHAN CHAPMAN

## **SHARING OF CONCERNS**

For all these persons and all who are in need. Hold your people near, O God.



Ъ С

OFFERI

GIN OUI

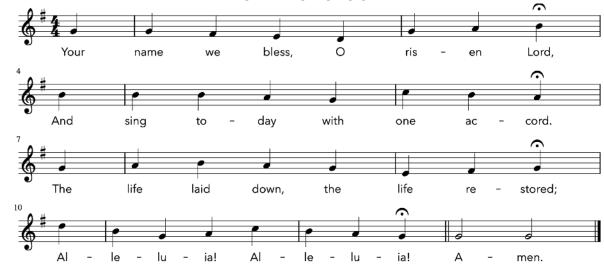
SOS SOS

**SPOND** 

\*PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT When Jesus calls his disciples, he promises to transform the gifts they already possess to be used for the glory and kingdom of God. Let us offer our resources in following Jesus. We will now begin our morning offering.

OFFERTORY

#### \*DOXOLOGY EASTER DOXOLOGY



## **\*TO GOD BE THE GLORY**



GOD BLESSES US AND SENDS US FORTH IN MISSION FOR THE

\*PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

VORLD

## \*BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION. CCLI COPYRIGHT LICENSE: 20184402 CCLI STREAMING LICENSE: 20184392 ONELICENSE, LICENSE -726080 WORSHIPCAST, LICENSE: 13264



## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

LAY LITURGIST: Joan Casenelli

GREETER: Dave & Bev Grennan

COUNTERS: Cherie Trahan, Carol Ryley

OFFERING: Janet Barnes, Cherie Trahan, Karen Ward, Tracey Griffing

## **OUR FAITHFULNESS**

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK 121

AVERAGE THIS MONTH 101

> YTD INCOME \$71,753

BUDGET NEEDED \$67,920



LINKTR.EE/WESTFIELDUCC

We LOVE kids at Westfield. Children are welcome to stay through the whole service. If your child is more active, relax! We believe God put the wiggles and giggles in children. Don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

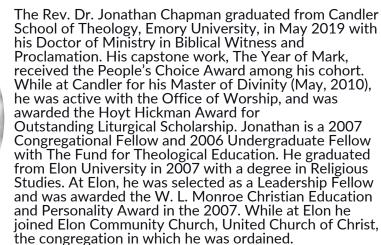
Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of worship. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

# THE REV. DR. JONATHAN CHAPMAN



Jonathan joined Westfield in October of 2012 and was officially installed as Pastor and Teacher in May of 2013, presiding over its revitalization. In October of 2022, he celebrated a decade with Westfield.

He was selected to be a part of the Next Generation Leadership Initiative, a program sponsored by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ that works with young clergy committed to parish ministry through a decade-long relationship. Dr. Chapman consults with congregations on a variety of topics ranging from revitalization to worship to marketing their churches. He married his husband, Greg (pastor of Enfield Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Enfield, CT), in December of 2014 at Westfield. Jonathan is an award-winning stained glass artist.

Rev. Jonathan's Onsite Hours are Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-12pm. His additional work days are Sunday and Monday, when he is available by appointment. His days off are Friday and Saturday.

Find time with Rev. Jon by scanning the QR code or going to calendly.com/revjonchapman

Contact info for Rev. Jonathan: (o) 860-774-8438 (m) 770-265-2171 (text ok) (e) jon@westfielducc.org



All of the Congregation The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Chapman Kevin Williams Sue Theroux Donna Bartholomew Jessica Payette Michelle Plasse



BOUT

**VESTFIELC** 

Ministers Pastor Director of Welcome Director of Music Director of Children Church Administrator Facilities Caretaker