



# THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**November 12, 2023 ~ 10:00 a.m.**

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

**In Person & Live Streamed**



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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

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*\*Please stand if able. **Bold** denotes unison response.*

**CHIMES**

Karen Needham

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Brief announcements are welcome, please be in the front pews at the start of the announcements.*

*Offerings and prayer request on the yellow prayer cards found in the pews may be placed in the offering plate at the time of the offering or in the designated boxes on the back table.*

**PRELUDE**

*Creation Will be at Peace*

Anna Laura Page

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, the service of hope and praise is ready.

**We respond to God's invitation, needing to be fed.**

Feed on the Love of God.

**We respond to God's invitation, seeking healing.**

Experience God's gracious healing mercy.

**We respond to God's invitation, longing for forgiveness.**

In the name of Christ, you are loved, healed, and forgiven.

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Let us sing and celebrate! Amen!**

**\*HYMN**

*We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

Pilgrim (red) 460

**\*GATHERING PRAYER & \*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Gracious and Patient God, in so many ways, we have so easily turned our back on you. Turn us around again and back to you, O God. Open our hearts and our spirits to receive Your Holy Word so we may again walk in the path of true discipleship. Amen.**

**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.**

## **\*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.*

## **DEDICATION OF OFFERING**

Surrounded by Your Peace and Love, O God, we bring our gifts to You. We ask You to bless these gifts and the lives they represent, that all may be used in Your Service and to Your Glory. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

**OFFERTORY**      *For the Beauty of the Earth*      John Rutter  
Senior Choir

## **\*Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below,  
Praise God for all that love has done,  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.*

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## **MOMENT FOR MISSIONS**

Ashley Washburn

## **READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE**



Matthew 21:33-46      Pew Bible page 802  
Philippians 3:4b-1      Pew Bible page 954

## **SERMON**

*Seed and Feed and Seed*

Rev. B. Suzy Rivera

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH



*Joys & Concerns  
Moment of Silence  
Pastoral Prayer*

**\*HYMN**      *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*      Pilgrim (red) 481

### **\*BENEDICTION**

**God's Love has been given to us. We have been seeded and fed by God.  
We go now into a world in which confusion and noise reign.  
May we seed and feed so as to bring peace and hope to all we meet.  
And, may the Grace of God, the Powerful Presence of the Holy Spirit,  
and the Love of Christ guide our steps into the world and  
throughout our lives into eternity! Amen!**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**      *Sevenfold Amen*  
Senior Choir

**\*POSTLUDE**      *Prelude in Classic Style*      Gordon Young

### **We welcome today ~ Rev. B. Suzy Rivera**

*Rev. B. Suzy Rivera is an ordained elder (clergy) in the United Methodist Church. She served churches in the Dallas/FortWorth area before moving to Connecticut in December 1999. Since 2000, Rev. Suzy has been appointed to the Friendship Service Center, Inc., a provider of services to people experiencing homelessness and/or poverty in New Britain. She and her husband Aldo live in Farmington. They have two daughters, Katey and Khris, two sons-in-law, a daughter Jennifurr, grand-daughters Lyse and Lily, and grand-kids Nero and Luna. Most importantly, Rev. Suzy is the proud Grammee of Roman and Dwayne. Yes, children and animals are an important part of her life and Christian calling, as is not taking the seriousness of life too seriously!*