

First United Methodist Church
of Shelton, Connecticut
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



June 1, 2025 at 10:00 AM – 7th Sunday of Easter

Revised Common Lectionary Texts:

Acts 16:16-34 | Psalm 87

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 | John 17:20-26

Prelude: "Wade in the Water"

Traditional Spiritual

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Prayer

***Call to Worship**

Leader: God invites all to come to the waters of baptism, where one is washed clean of sin and made new in Christ. God also calls us to the table to partake in the Eucharist that is available to all.

People: We come with hearts ready to receive God's grace, to be nourished at Christ's table, and to witness the power of the Holy Spirit at work.

L: Be reminded that these sacraments are signs of God's covenant with us and God's promise to do everything to bring us into right relationship with God.

P: May the promises of these sacraments be lived as we follow Jesus and serve God with joy and faithfulness through the power of the Holy Spirit.

L: Let us meet God today and together, from wherever we are emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

UMH 147

The Sacrament of Baptism

UMH 39-43

Preceding Comments: Pastor Bill

Hymn: "Breathe on Me Breath of God" v.1&4 (remain seated)
(Those participating in the baptism sacrament will come forward)

UMH 420

Introduction to the Service of Baptism (p.39)

Presentation of the Candidate for Baptism

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Renunciation by the Sponsors

Renunciation and Profession Directed to the Congregation (p.40):

Pastor: Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

Congregation: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround this person with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

Pastor: Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Old and New Testaments. Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontious Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

(*catholic: universal)

Thanksgiving Over the Water (p.41-42)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Eternal Father, when nothing existed but chaos...Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

All: Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

Pastor: He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

All: Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit...she may share in final victory.

All: All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen.

Baptism with Laying On of Hands (p. 42-43)

After the child has been baptized...

Presentation of the Baptism Candle

Pastor: Now it is our joy to welcome our new sister in Christ.

All: Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.

Commendation and Welcome (p.43)

Pastor: Members of the household of God, I commend this person to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

All: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Pastor: The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

***Hymn of Response:** "Morning Has Broken"

UMH 145

First Scripture Reading: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

Following each lesson is said:

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Reading:** John 17:20-26

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection: "Unity Before and Forever"

Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer

Passing of the Peace

Invitation To Offer Our Gifts

Offertory: "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Traditional Spiritual

***Presenting Our Gifts:** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow." UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

UMC Discipleship Ministries

God of Revelation and Divine Incarnation, you have created all that is good in the world. You have blessed us with life. And you have shown yourself to us in the person of Jesus Christ, making it plain for all to see that you love us without limit. Our giving is a reaction to your gifts to us: Jesus our Savior, the Holy Spirit our Sustainer, and your holy sacraments conveyed to us through the ages in your living body, the church. Bless these gifts, O God, for the good of your church and all who are served by it and by us. Amen.

(Continued)

Invitation by the Pastor

Confession (Unison)

Most merciful God, we confess that 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 heart; We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Silent Confessional Prayer & Words of Assurance

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners. That proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

ALL: Glory to God. AMEN.

Preparing the Bread and Cup

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion and concludes:

And so, with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit concluding:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's 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 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, forever. Amen.

Breaking the Bread / Giving the Bread and Cup

Thanksgiving Prayer following Holy Communion

***Sending Hymn:** "Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

UMH 557

Benediction

Postlude: "They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love"

Scholtes

*Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Approaching! June 8 Laity-Driven Workshop

Our worship service on June 8, the Sunday of the weekend of this year's annual conference in Stamford, will be laity-led. The sermon will be prerecorded by Pastor Bill, but we will need volunteers to help lead worship as Pastor Bill will be at conference. **If you will be in worship on June 8 and would like to participate, please tell Pastor Bill today.** Thank you!

Church Meetings

Finance Committee – Friday, June 13 at 10:00 AM

Church Council – Sunday, June 22 at 11:30 AM

Need Liturgists

We need liturgists for June 8 & 22 services. If you can help out with either date, please let the office or Pastor Bill know. Thank you!

TO REACH PASTOR BILL

Please call or text 475-282-2800. He may also be reached via email: pastor@umcshelton.org. His office hours at the church office are Mondays and Fridays from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm (but may vary from week to week).

WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

An email newsletter is sent out each Wednesday. Please have any items for submission to the church office by Wednesday at 9 am. If you are not receiving the emails, sign up on the church website.



SERVING TODAY:

Rev. Bill Florin, Pastor

Ron Giannattasio, Organist

Rev. Ximena A. Diaz, Liturgist

Sal Iorfino, Video & Sound Technologist

CHURCH LEADERSHIP:

Bill Florin, Pastor

Ron Giannattasio, Organist

The Rev. Doug Osgood, Interim Director of Music

Bob Singletary, Chair. of Church Council

Jorge Varas, Chair. of Staff Parish Relations Committee

Bob Wood, Chair. of the Board of Trustees

WELCOME

We welcome you to our worship and our church community. We are so glad you are here. We invite you to participate in the service as much as you feel comfortable and to sit out parts of the service you might not yet feel comfortable with. Wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome here. As our "Welcoming Statement" says, "We welcome **all** to full inclusion in the life and ministry of our church."

(see below for complete "Welcome" and "Mission" statements)

**SUNDAY WORSHIP // 10:00 also live-streamed & recorded
Fellowship 11:00 am**

Welcoming Church Statement

A welcoming family of God committed to becoming more and more like Jesus Christ.

We affirm and respect each individual as a child of God. We celebrate the uniqueness of each person and welcome people of every age, ethnicity, and race, sexual orientation and gender identity, marital status, socio-economic situation, and physical/mental ability.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to create a community of faith that reflects Christ's message of love and justice. We invite all to full inclusion in the life and ministry of our church in Christ.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SHELTON

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All Things Bright and Beautiful UMH 147

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
and made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one.

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

Breathe on Me Breath of God (v. 1 & 4) UMH 420

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Morning Has Broken UMH 145

Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Blest Be the Tie that Binds UMH 557

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.