

Prelude – “Prelude in F Major” Hesse

Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Hymn – “Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”

Call to Worship (based on Mark 4:35-41)

Today we are drenched with worry.

But God, you embrace our water-logged anxiety.

We come for “me,” and, by your grace, worship as “we.”

Your attention to our storms and your fearlessness in their midst provides a healing salve.

So, let the waves come, because in you, our raging waters find rest.

Amen

Prayer of Confession and Surrender

A Litany of Confession

When we are tossed about by the winds of change and fear,

Lord, have mercy upon us.

When we confess our weakness and our need for You,

Christ, have mercy upon us.

When we confess our sins and surrender our burdens to Your care,

Lord, cleanse our hearts and grant us Your peace. Almighty God, forgive our doubts, calm our anxieties, and hold us through every storm. Amen

Passing of Peace

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Call to Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Children’s Message

Offertory Reflection

Offertory - “Andante”

Rheinberger

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Receive these gifts, O Lord, and bless them for your purposes. Use them to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, care for those in need, strengthen your church, and bring hope to our community and world. Dedicate us also to your service. May we offer our time, talents, compassion, and lives with joy, reflecting your grace in all we do. We dedicate these gifts and ourselves to your glory, trusting that you will accomplish more than we can ask or imagine. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 43:1-3a**

Hymn - “Eternal Father Strong to Save”

Gospel Reading – Mark 4:35-41**

Sermon – “Hold Fast”

Elly Evans

Closing Hymn – “Have Thine Own Way Lord”

Announcements

Benediction

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face.

The rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again. May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

And God’s people say: **Amen.**

Postlude – “Voluntary”

Boëllmann



**After the scripture readings, please respond, "Thanks be to God."

We extend a warm greeting to all who are attending our worship service this morning in person, on Zoom, or watching later via a video link.

The Flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Roberta Marengi, in loving memory of her mother, Nevley Hilliard.

Today – Staff Parish Committee

Minister of Music – Karen Leonard

Pastor – Reverend Geisa Matos

Guest Speaker – Elly Evans

THIS WEEK AT WEST CHELMSFORD UMC

Sunday, July 26th 9th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM, Worship Service In-person and via Zoom

10:30 AM, Coffee Hour outside (weather permitting)

Saturday – 11:30 AM, Private Event in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 2nd, 10th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM, Worship Service In-person and via Zoom

Ongoing Prayer Requests

- World peace and social justice for all God's children, independently of race, gender, or socioeconomic background.
- All who are sick, mourning, and/or lonely.

Article Submission Due Dates

- Articles for the **midweek email** are due in the church office by **9:00 AM Monday**.
- Articles for the **church bulletin insert** are due in the church office by **9:00 AM Tuesday**.
- **Articles for the September 2026 Newsletter** are due in the church office by **Monday, August 17, 2026**.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

In conjunction with the **Blessing of the Animals worship service on Sunday, August 23, 2026**, we are sponsoring an in-gathering for the Lowell Humane Society's Pet Food Pantry to help them provide pet food, free of charge, to those in need. If you are able, donations of all types of non-perishable pet food, in sealed packages, will be collected from now until the Blessing of the Animals event. A Pet Food donation Collection box is in the Education Building lobby. All types of non-perishable dog and cat food, wet or dry, as well as bird and small-animal food, are welcome. It is helpful if dry dog food is in 5 lb. bags so that it can be given to more families.

Also, animal shelters go through an incredible amount of sheets, pillow cases, blankets, and towels in their daily operations. If you would like to recycle any of yours, please bring your old but clean linens and things, marked for the Lowell Humane Society. All sizes are welcome, but they

must fit into a standard-size washing machine. Look for the "Linens and Things" Collection Bin in the Education Building lobby.

Donations of old newspapers are very helpful to Animal Shelters. If you have any that are no longer needed, please leave them in the box marked "Newspaper" in the lobby of the Education Building.

Boredom for shelter pets is a real problem. Volunteers at the Lowell Humane Society would like to purchase enrichment items to help keep the animals engaged. If you can spare a dollar or two, please place them in the Jar on the Lowell Humane Society Table at the Blessing of the Animals event.

Thank you for your support. Your donations make a big difference! We look forward to seeing you at this year's Blessing of the Animals.

The sign-up sheet for the St. Paul's Meal is now online. To volunteer, please click on the link below. The St. Paul's Meal will be served on **Wednesday, August 26, 2026**. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-64847762-august>

Lost and Found – If you are missing a men's flannel shirt, a child's jacket, a sweater, a pair of earrings, a pair of gloves, a single glove, or a toy dinosaur, please pick them up in the church office. Your items miss you.

Toddler Afternoon Assistant Wanted – Cottage Montessori for Toddlers (located in the Education Wing) is seeking a part-time afternoon assistant for the 2026-2027 school year, Monday-Wednesday from 12:15 to 3:45 PM. Experience with children is welcome, but not necessary. Training and mentoring provided. Please contact Karen Wagner for more information at 508-397-4581.