

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH and  
GHANA EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.

168 Broad Street Phone: 203.874.1982  
Milford, Connecticut 06460 FAX: 203.877.8973

Order of Worship  
5 o'clock p.m.

(\* Those who are able may stand. °°° Late arrivals will be seated.)

THE BELL TOLLS – *Welcoming us to worship God*

PRELUDE “Pastorale” Charles Wesley  
*Mr. Daniel Petit, Organist*

WELCOME TO OUR CELEBRATION *Dr. Bodt and Rev. Aduku*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Galatians 3:28-29 from “The Message,” paraphrased

Leader: In Christ’s family there can be no division.

People: ***Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female: all are equal.***

***ALL: WE ARE IN A COMMON RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.***

Leader: Since we are Christ’s family, then we are Abraham’s famous descendants.

People: ***We are heirs of God according to the covenant promises.***

***ALL: LET US WORSHIP OUR WONDROUS, BOUNDARY-CROSSING,  
BRIDGE-BUILDING GOD.***

\*HYMN #158 “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” Spanish Hymn

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*unison*) “A Ministry Covenant Prayer” *Mrs. Diana Kaikari Appiah*

***O God, you do a new thing and it springs forth. You promise that in Christ we are all one. Your Spirit of Truth lives with us. Grant now your blessing upon this special covenant in Christ between our two congregations. Fill us with mutual love and respect. Remind us that though we may not always think alike, we can always love alike. Grant that Christian affection be always reflected in our hearts and minds, so that others might look upon us and say “See how those Christians love one another.” This we ask, to our greater good and your greater glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

HYMN (*seated*) “I Hear Thy Welcome Voice” MHB 351 (insert)

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GREETING AND EPISCOPAL LETTER *The Rev. Kenneth Kieffer, Superintendent*

ANTHEM “Love Grows Here” Don Besig  
(*MTMUMC Adult Choir*)

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 43:18-19 Bible p.659  
*Read in Akan by Mr. Kojo Kyei Munufie and in English by Mr. Dennis Darak.*

Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: ***Thanks be to God.***

\*HYMN “Go, Labor On” MHB 589 (insert)

THE EPISTLE Galatians 3:23-29 Bible p.1061

*Read in Akan by Ms. Theresa Boateng and in English by Mrs. Rachel Merva.*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

OFFERING OF MUSIC The musicians of Ghana Emmanuel UMC

THE SERMON “All in the Family” The Rev. David Gilmore

SOLO “How Great Thou Art” *Mrs. Candida Aduku*

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER Hymnal #895

\*THE PEACE

L: May the peace of the Lord be always with you. **P: *And also with you.***

*(Greet one another with signs of Christ’s peace.)*

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS *Mr. Frank Karikari Appiah*

*We will present our gifts by coming forward to the altar.*

*Worshippers will be invited forward based on the day of the week on which you were born.*

*If you do not know this day, raise your hand and ushers will assist you in finding your day.*

Offertory Song The musicians of Ghana Emmanuel UMC

\*Presentation: “The Doxology” Hymnal #95

\*Prayer of Dedication *Mr. Frank Karikari Appiah*

\*A COVENANT PRAYER IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION (*unison, altered*)

***We are no longer our own, but thine.***

***Put us to what thou wilt, rank us with whom thou wilt.***

***Put us to doing, put us to suffering. Let us be employed by thee  
or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low by thee.***

***Let us be full, let us be empty. Let us have all things, let us have nothing.***

***We freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.***

***And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
thou art ours, and we am thine. So be it.***

***And the covenant we have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.***

\*HYMN #553 “And Are We Yet Alive” Dennis

\*THE BENEDICTION *The Rev. Kenneth Kieffer, Superintendent*

\*THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE “Shalom to You” Hymnal #666

***Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends. May God’s full mercies bless you, my friends.***

***In all your living and through your loving, Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.***

\*THE BELL TOLLS – *Sending us to walk with and witness for Jesus*

POSTLUDE “This Little Light of Mine” Mark Hayes

**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.**

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR COVENANT

The congregation now known as Ghana Emmanuel United Methodist Church (GEUMC) began worshipping in the home of Sister Yaa Afranie in Bridgeport, CT on April 10, 2016. On May 8<sup>th</sup> the gathering transferred to the home of Sister Patience Ashong, also in Bridgeport. Worshipping remained in this house until public worship services began at Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church (MTMUMC) on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

These Christian disciples live along the Connecticut coast between Bridgeport and New Haven. Many grew up in Methodism in Ghana, West Africa and desired to worship in Akan, one of the dialects of Ghana. (The official language of Ghana, a former British colony, is English.) The Rev. Ebenezer Aduku, pastor of John Wesley UM Church in Brooklyn, New York, began serving as their missional pastor.

At Annual Conference in June, Superintendent Kieffer introduced Rev. Ebenezer Aduku to Rev. Brian Bodt, pastor of MTMUMC. Rev. Aduku asked whether MTMUMC would be willing to consider “nesting” them so that they might grow beyond the size of congregation that could be accommodated in a private home.

Conversations included a July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting at which Conference staff (The Rev. David Gilmore and the Rev. Matt Curry) were present. Agreements were reached in both local congregations and with the approval of former Bishop Jane Middleton (and, subsequently, Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton) and the Bishop’s Cabinet (the six District Superintendents and other key staff positions). The Church Council of MTMUMC approved “A Shared Ministry Covenant” and “A Memorandum of Understanding” on September 15. On September 18<sup>th</sup> the inaugural worship of GEUMC was celebrated in our Chapel and these agreements were signed by leaders from both congregations.

We delight in this public celebration of our shared ministry and look forward to ways to continue to grow in Christian love and mutual support of one another’s ministries.

### HOSPITALITY

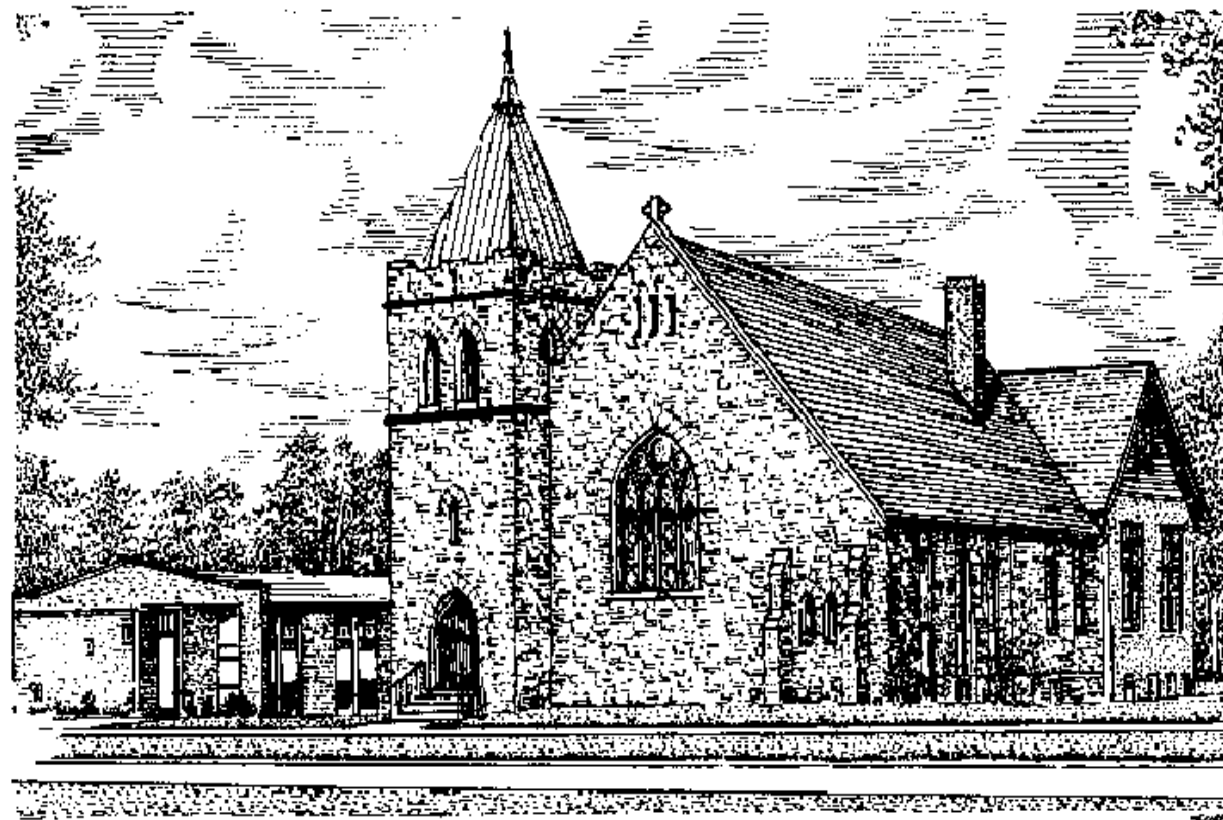
follows worship in Dodd Hall, right behind the sanctuary. Please have fellowship together! We thank Sister Patience Ashong (GEUMC) and Sister Shelly Lapadula (MTMUMC) for coordinating the hospitality this evening and for the many that have contributed.

### ADDITIONAL WORSHIP LEADERS

**Acolytes:** Olivia D’Andrea and Lillia Downing

**Ushers:** Dennis Darak and Kelly O’Hara

We thank **Dr. Rick Riccardi**, Director of Music at Mary Taylor Memorial Church, for his major contributions to this service. He is away due to previously scheduled travel plans.



## Mary Taylor Memorial United Methodist Church and Ghana Emmanuel United Methodist Church

*First Methodist Church in Milford: 1836*

*Current building dedicated: 1893*

*Merged with Myrtle Beach Community Church: 1969*

*Nesting Ghana Emmanuel Church: 2016*

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on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here.*

**COVENANT CELEBRATION SERVICE**  
**NOVEMBER 13, 2016**