

In the presence of God, the way of the world is turned upside down. Success is not measured by titles or celebrity status but by how much we love. Life takes on a new texture, a refined focus: God is with us – right here, right now, in every aspect of our lives.

In the presence of God, frightened hearts are calmed and strengthened. The improbable happens: the deaf hear, the blind see, the lame leap...

In the presence of God distinctions among people fall away...all are welcome no matter what they wear or how they look or what their accomplishments. God loves us all the same!

In the presence of God, the healing stories – as wonderful as they are – are not the whole story. “Knowing” stories are - knowing the presence of God with us in our joy and in our suffering – in the prayer of the community, in the prayer of our heart, in visits from loved ones and from strangers. God’s embrace knows no bounds.

God longs for us to live in this presence....to have our eyes opened to see, our ears opened to hear, and our hearts ready to respond to the Love of our God in our midst –today.

What will it take for us today to recognize the incredible presence of God here among us – in Southbury...in our church.... and beyond?

Whatever it takes, may we have the courage to live in the presence of God.