

Order of Worship
First Church Congregational
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the
United Church of Christ
Fairfield, Connecticut



*Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
~ Psalm 90:2*

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

Prelude

This is a Day of New Beginnings

Brian Wren

Welcome and Announcements

We seek to extend the extravagant love of God to all people, all the time. Regardless of your race, class, ancestry, gender identity, marital status, ability, age, immigration status, political orientation, or sexual orientation -who you love - you are always welcome at First Church, on line, on the lawn, or eventually in the Sanctuary and Chapel. God loves you just as you are. So do we!

Interlude

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Doris Akers

Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 90:1-12

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: Creator, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Leader: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

People: You sweep them away; they are like a dream.

Leader: In our sinfulness and our frailty, our small part in the largeness of the universe
and human history, teach us to count our days.

People: Help us to make good use of the time and gifts you provide.

**All: God, holy and infinite, bring us together in praise and commitment,
and grant us wise hearts in your service.**

Hymn

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 Be - fore the hills in in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
 A - thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,
 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 From ev - er - last - ing you are God, and to end - less years the same.
 Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ri - sing sun.
 Still be our God while trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home!

Unison Prayer of Invocation and Lord’s Prayer

God of all time, of generations before and generations to come, we call upon your presence among us today. We come together as people of this unique moment, prepared to praise you and to do the work that you have set before us. Ignite within us the hope of your love and the passion to live as you have called us and continue to call us daily. Open our minds and our hearts to the coming of your Spirit, and allow us to worship in the peace of Jesus Christ, who taught and continually teaches us to pray: 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.

Children’s Sermon

Alex Ackley

Candle of Witness

“Uncoway Land Acknowledgement”

Interlude

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith

Scripture

Psalm 90:1-12; Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon

“Seeking, Not Settling”

Heidi Butler

Hymn

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”



Called as part - ners in Christ's ser - vice, called to min - is - tries of — grace,
Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spi - ring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Thus new pat - terns for Christ's mis - sion, in a small or glo - bal sense,

5
We re - spond with deep com - mit - ment fresh new lines of faith to — trace.
Let us fol - low, nev - er — fal - tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on — earth.
Help us bear each oth - er's bur - dens, break - ing down each wall or — fence.

9
May we learn the art of — shar - ing, side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom - en, rich - er, — poor - er, all God's peo - ple, young and old,
Words of com - fort, words of — vis - ion, words of chal - lenge, said with care,

13
E - qual part - ners in our car - ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
Blend - ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
Bring new power and strength for — ac - tion, make us col - leagues, free and fair.

A Time for Silent Reflection

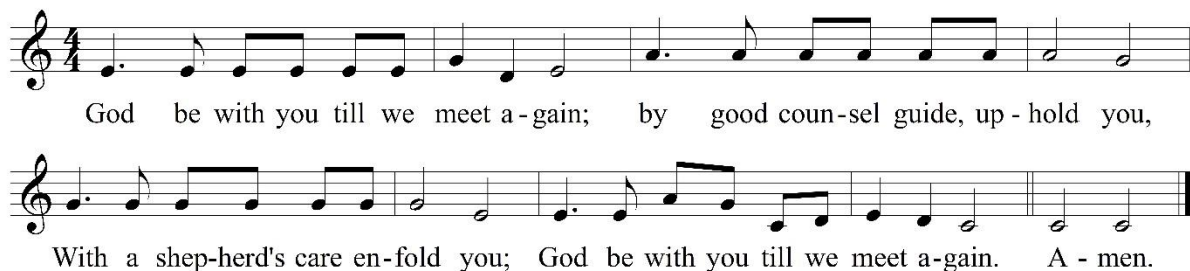
Joys and Concerns

The Prayers of the People

Invitation to the Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Benediction

God Be With You



God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun - sel guide, up - hold you,
With a shep - herd's care en - fold you; God be with you till we meet a - gain. A - men.

Postlude:

When Peace, Like a River

Horatio G. Spafford

You can make your donation, gift or pledge at any time by **Mail** to 148 Beach Road, Fairfield, CT 06824; the secure **Church Website** <https://firstchurchfairfield.org>, click on the tab “Giving,” and scroll down to access **Online and PayPal**; or **Electronic Transfer of Funds** from your bank.

LEADING US IN WORSHIP

The Reverend David W. Spollett

The Reverend Vanessa Rose

Ms. Heidi Butler, Student Pastor

Mr. Robert Codio, Worship Music Leader

Ms. Cheri Evan, Minister of Congregational Life

David McKinnis and Alan Fuehring, Worship Tech Team

Please hold in your prayers...

Disciples at First Church: Sandy Bromer, Megan D’Angelico, Michael Dyslin, Bill Gatto, Sonia Gutierrez and Henry Hernandez, Gayle Hand, Joyce Hutchings, Christy Jefremow, Cathy Kane, Adelaide Kitchen, Alice and Jerry Krenke, Lillian Klein, Gerry Kuroghlian, Mimi Maniscalco, Stu Nazzaro, Kathy O’Brien, Tracy Parfitt, Jack Robinson, Esther Sotolongo, Rachel Spollett, Joe and Lauren Strickland’s five grandsons in Libya, Arlene Studer, Joann Van Esselstyn, Bill Verdier, Elinor Wilber, and Edith Zambo.

Those on the Front Lines of COVID-19:

Eric Anderson, member of First Church; Michelle Baker, member of First Church; Elizabeth Brennan, friend of Jeanne Reed; Laura Burr, member of First Church; Raquel Canete, friend of Joe and Fran Evan; Pertrinea Cash, First Church Member; Kim Chaffee, member of First Church; Marguerite Dolan, mother of Matt Dolan and mother-in-law of Vanessa Rose; Ericka Gordon, niece of Jane Keller and Davis Miller; Brooke Hine, granddaughter of Jerry and Alice Krenke; Stephen Huelskamp, friend of Nina and Mark Engstrom; Greg Jefremow, member of First Church; Kristin Koch, member of First Church; Tracie and Devon Lingenfelter, niece and great niece of Charlotte Dyslin; Kristin Lupo, member of First Church; Lauren Redler McGrath, friend of Nina and Mark Engstrom; Maria Pellegrino, colleague of Beth McKinnis; Beth McKinnis, member of First Church; Diane Marble, sister-in-law of Charlotte Dyslin; Casey Redler, friend of Nina and Mark Engstrom; Maria Sutton, member of First Baptist; Anna Taft and her group of volunteers Tandana Foundation, works in Ecuador and Mali, friend of Jeanne Reed; Edite Weddle, member of First Church; Westport EMS; Ann Yergeau, friend of Nina and Mark Engstrom.

Serving in the military: James Classy, Sam Classy, Trevor Dawson, David Elmore, Sean Lomnitzer, Alec Lee and Chris Muschett.

Family and Friends: Gabe, George, Gloria and Eric, Brenda Baker, Nick Bandanza, Anne Barnes, Walter Beck, Michelle Browser, Kevin Butler, Meg Cavanaugh, Amber Chiang, Clara Chokenea,

David Ciaburro, Aristodemo Ciabatta, Elizabeth Clark, Charlotte Cole, Jan Craig, Tedi Crawford, The Daly Family, Steve Daniels, Brandon Deedon, The DiGioia Family, Jacqueline Geoffroy, Greenawalt and Darnall Families, Linda Drew, Tom Dwyer, Janet Faller, LaTonya Franklin, Scott Ferguson, Nat Ferrante, Allen Freedman, Lauren Frey and Brian's parents, Joan Grabowski, Dave Gurrieri, Ira Jane Han-Cajegas, Nancy Huber, Keli Imperatori, Mary Jean Jacob, Norma Jenkins and Family, Barton Jones, Art Keller, Patricia Keller, Bernie Keller, Steve Kinne, Ed Kitchen, Nancy Kovacs, Desmond Leach, Jan MacMillen, Michael Maxwell, Eileen Maloney, Tim Marble, Verne Marble, Nicole Mateo and her grandmother Bunny Deubner, Peter J. McGuinness, Lyn McCullers, MaKayla and John McGovern, Claire McMonagle, Matilda, Moeller and Schumann families, Michael Moran, Kathy Murdock, Joelle Murphy, Anne and George Noel, Parus Family, Erika Pascarello, Amadeu Pereira, Mike Platt, Dimitri Psachoulias,, Katie Pieterse, Sara Redeghieri,, Dick Reese, Sally and Paul Robinson, Katelyn S., Greg Sago, Larry Lawrence(Connie Sargent's cousin), Wes Schultz, Violet, JoAnn Sharnick, Darlene Scaia, Kristin Schleiter, Louise M. Schmidt, Levi Schmidt, Sergei, Nasir Sellers, Connie Sokalsky, Ryan Steward, Seth Sullivan Steven Szymczak and family, Paul Taylor, Howard Thompson, Jenny and Mike Tkacz, Harumi Ishihara Sugiyama, Danielle Taal and her five sons, Max Varalli, Sarah Wakeman, Andy Yuan, Virginia MacDonald and her children Linda Hotchkiss, Dan MacDonald, Gianfranco Grande's mother, Elizabetta, Sydney West and family, Brian Zagorski,, Reva Zamero, James Zamora's family.

The Needs of God's Beloved World:

- Transgender people who are suffering because of their identity; those subjected to physical violence; and especially those who have been killed; and those who love them
- The people and communities battered by Tropical Storm Eta and Hurricane Zeta
- The victims of COVID-19: nearly 1.3 million deaths worldwide, over 242,000 in the US, and 52.3 million who have been sick, ten percent who have chronic afflictions
- Those who are suffering economically due to the pandemic and the economic crisis
- Health care workers who provide care as the number of new cases reaches 142,00 a day
- Essential workers who have continued to work in spite of the risk
- Those who are lonely, anxious, afraid, and isolated in this time of social separation
- All who suffer from depression, anxiety, and all mental illnesses and their families
- Mental health providers who care for all who are suffering mentally and emotionally
- All who work to prevent domestic violence and to care for the victims of such violence
- People targeted by hatred of all kinds, including anti-Black, anti-Migrant, anti-Gay, anti-Trans, anti-Semitic, anti-Islamic, anti-Christian prejudice, and actions
- All who are committed to the work of antiracism and the eradication of white supremacy
- Survivors of sexual assault, abuse, and harassment and those who love them
- Parents and all who are involved in education: teachers, administrators, and staff
- Those who suffer from catastrophic diseases who are not receiving adequate health care
- Syrian refugees, especially the children, and all the world's 71 million refugees
- Uighur Muslims in China and Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and Bangladesh
- Those who are addicted and their loved ones; those who have died and those in recovery

- Migrants and asylum seekers who flee gang violence and grinding poverty
- Refugees and immigrants, especially at risk of deportation
- Victims of war in Iraq, Sudan, the DR of Congo, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, & Libya, especially the grandsons of Joe and Lauren Strickland,
- Our Brothers and Sisters at the First Baptist Church of Stratford
- Our community partners: Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, School Volunteer Association, Mercy Learning Center, Operation Hope, Westbridge, Simply Smiles, Make the Road Connecticut, and the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants
- We work and pray for justice and its fruit which is peace

This Week:

Sunday, Nov. 15

9:00am Bible Study on Zoom
 9:00am Confirmation
 9:30am Disciple Road on Zoom
 10:15am Worship Facebook Live
 10:30am Middle Road
 12:00pm Worship on the Lawn

Monday, Nov. 16

7:30pm All Church Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, Nov. 17

12:30pm Pastoral Team Meeting
 6:00pm Handbell Choir, Webb Room

Wednesday, Nov. 18

10:00am Bible Study on Zoom

Thursday, Nov. 19

6:30pm High Road

Sunday, Nov. 22

9:00am Bible Study on Zoom
 9:00am Confirmation
 9:30am Disciple Road on Zoom
 10:15am Worship Facebook Live
 10:30am Middle Road
 12:00pm Worship on the Lawn

Welcome the Stranger ministry, has identified some specific key items needed by resettled refugee families as winter approaches:

-Baby clothes for winter (3 boys and 1 girl), 3-6months

-New Blankets

-New scarves, hats and gloves for both children and adults.

Please drop off your items in Wakeman Hall, box near the stage, **by Friday Nov 13**. I will deliver these items to CIRI (CT Institute for Refugees and Immigrants) who will distribute the items to families in need.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or if you are unable to make a drop-off and would like to make alternative arrangements.

Patty Gregory

(203) 209-9129



Covenant to Care will be collecting donations for Shop Rite and Stop and Shop Gift Cards in place of Thanksgiving Baskets. If you would like to donate please send a check payable to First Church and write "Thanksgiving Baskets" in the memo line.

Questions?

Contact Marilyn Henry 203-255-5296



WIFI for Thanksgiving

Distance learning is here to stay,

BUT how do you learn without a laptop...without access to the internet?

Janus Center for Youth in Crisis, a service of the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport is helping 90 Greater Bridgeport youth with laptops.

Now, they need internet access.

You can help make that happen!

The total cost for a year is \$190

(\$70 for the Wi-Fi Hot Spot and \$10/monthly charge.)

Will you make a Thanksgiving gift with that cost?

You can help with the installation cost, or a month or two charges, or for an entire year.

Your gift (payable to First Church, memo "Wifi) will help a young person to succeed in school.

What a great way to bridge the educational opportunity inequity gap and celebrate Thanksgiving!



"Gifts of Warmth " for



OPERATION
HOPE

Due to health concerns we will only be accepting **NEW items** this year.

Please find it in your heart to look for the following items while you are doing your own holiday shopping.

These gifts can include New Coats, scarves, hats, boots, mittens gloves and long underwear.
Extra Large sizes

are always appreciate! The drive will begin November 28th and run through December 10th.

Look for the "Gifts of Warmth" Box in Wakeman Hall.



You Can Help!!

Deliver Non-Perishable Food, Diapers, Checks, and Gift Cards
to Wakeman Hall

By **Thursday Noon** for delivery
to the Food Pantry at Mercy Learning Center on Friday Morning!!

These are basic items that will help right now:

- bags of rice and bags of any type of dried beans, lentils, etc.
- tomato paste, tomato sauce, or diced tomatoes
- oatmeal, cream of wheat, corn meal,
- pasta, cooking oil, flour
- powdered or evaporated milk
- canned meats, canned fruit, canned vegetables
- toilet paper, bars of soap, other toiletries
- Diapers: sizes 4, 5, and *especially 6*
- Gift cards: Stop and Shop, Shop Rite, Walgreens, CVS
- Financial Donations: Mail to First Church, check payable to Mercy Learning Center.



ALL CHURCH MEETING ON ZOOM

Monday, November 16

7:30 pm on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84387700653?pwd=VjQ1UC8vRnZuVWVVZE93ZmtTWmtmdz09.>

or call in +1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 725 063 5457

Passcode: 113372

Update on

- Capital Improvements & Lighting
- Solar Project & HVAC
- Store
- Live Streaming
- Stewardship
- Fund Raising

Opportunities to embrace our faith

- Choir
- CONECT
- Racial Justice
- Operation Hope Meals
- Youth
- Disciple Road



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

Annual Advent Event

Sunday Nov 22nd at 2:00 PM Outside in
the parking lot at First Church

We will be decorating our reverse advent boxes to fill with food
items to donate to Operation Hope

RSVP BY NOV 16TH
LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE

Please Contact Alex Ackley for more information.

aackley@firstchurchfairfield.org

RSVP on Signup Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050b4dada82fa7f49-annual>