

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



Sheep, Goats and Lama by Melissa Miller

NOVEMBER 22, 2020
The Reign of Christ

Prelude

Hymn of Thanks

Beverly Simpson

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!

Musical Interlude

Come O Fount

John Wyeth

Call to Worship

Leader: Though the dark clouds cover us, and the violent storms assail,

People: God seeks us out and protects us, to bring us to the safe shelter of God's compassion.

Leader: When we feel lost and alone, wondering who will save us,

People: God reaches out in love, healing our wounds and transforming our lives.

Leader: Thank God who reaches out to us in love in all times.

People: Praise God who searches for us and brings us home. Amen.

Hymn

“We Praise You, O God”

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
We worship you, God of our Mother and Father,
With voices united our praises we offer,
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring,
and glad - ly our song - pest of thanks - give - ing we raise.
We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ills o'er - take us, we nev - er will for - sake us;
Our sins now con - fess - ing, we pray for your bless - ing;
we and bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
to with you, our help, O God, in life's strug - gles we win.
your great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Unison Prayer of Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Open our minds and spirits, O God, that we might see your reign as Sovereign of the Universe. In this season of thanksgiving, we come to you with grateful hearts, knowing that you call us to care for each other: to feed the hungry, to clothe those in need, to visit the sick and those imprisoned, to welcome the stranger. We praise you for Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who taught us to boldly 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

Candle of Witness

The Reverend Darrell Goodwin

Executive Conference Minister of the Southern New England Conference, UCC

Musical Interlude

Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God

Karen Lafferty

Scripture

Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon “Jesus is King! Yes, But King of What?”

The Reverend David Spollett

Hymn

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voi - ces,
 O may this boun - teous God through all our life and be near us,
 All praise and thanks to God our Mak - er now be giv - en,

4
 Who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es,
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts, and our bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 To Christ, and Spir - it, too, our help in high - est heav - en,

8
 Who, from our par - ents' arms, has and blessed us on our way
 And keep us still in grace, and whom guide us when per - plexed,
 The one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore,

12
 With count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 And free us from all ills, and in this world and the next.
 For thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

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:

They'll Know We Are Christians

Peter Scholtes

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. Alex Ackley, Director of Disciple Road

Ms. Cheri Evan, Minister of Congregational Life

Handbell Choir: Ainsley Dolan, Tim Clark, Heidi Butler, Peter Evan,
Andrew McKinnis, Emily Fuehring, Vanessa Rose, and Marilyn Lord

Worship Tech Team: David McKinnis, Andrew McKinnis, and Alan Fuehring,

Please hold in your prayers...

Disciples at First Church: Sandy Bromer, Ken and Betsy Dalling, 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 Trupp, 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, John Anderson, 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 Psachoulis,, Katie Pieterse, Sara Redeghieri,, Dick Reese, Sally and Paul Robinson, Katelyn S., Greg Sago, Larry Lawrence(Connie Sargent's cousin), Violet, JoAnn Sharnick, Darlene Scaia, Kristin Schleiter, Louise M. Schmidt, Levi Schmidt, Sergei, 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:

- The people and communities battered by Hurricanes Zeta and Iota
- Elected officials and public servants who are working for the rule of law and democracy
- Victims of COVID-19: over **249,000 deaths** in the US and nearly 1.34 million worldwide and over 56 million who have been sick, with ten percent living with chronic afflictions
- Health care professionals who provide care as **new cases reach 160,000** a day
- Essential workers who have continued to work in spite of the risk
- Those who are suffering economically due to the pandemic and the economic crisis
- 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
- The world's 71 million refugees, especially children & immigrants at risk of deportation
- 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
- 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. 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
 2:00pm Annual Advent Event,
 On the basketball court

Tuesday, Nov. 24

12:30pm Pastoral Team Meeting
 6:00pm Handbell Choir, Webb Room
 7:30pm Church Council on Zoom

Wednesday, Nov. 25

10:00am Bible Study on Zoom

Thursday, Nov. 26-Nov.27

Happy Thanksgiving!
 Church Offices Closed



Sunday, Nov. 29 Advent-Hope

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



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.



Draw Near This Advent

Advent is a wonderful to deepen your faith practices! Through these long nights we invite you to try one or both of these offerings as we prepare to welcome the Christ child into our hearts:

The UCC Daily Advent Devotional, Draw Near, which you can order online from the Pilgrim Press or by following this link: <https://bit.ly/38V5Z4s>

A litany for lighting your advent wreath at home each week along with the worship leaders in the sanctuary. This litany will be given along with each reverse advent box at our Advent Event or can be downloaded here: <https://firstchurchfairfield.org/advent-candle-lighting-2020/>

Christmas Gifts

Gifts this year will go to the St. Luke/St. Paul Food Pantry. Names of those in memory or honor will be printed in the Christmas bulletins. Please return this form together with your contribution to the church office no later than

Friday, December 7th

My/Our Christmas Gift is given:

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

Amount \$ _____

Make checks payable to First Church Congregational. Memo: Christmas Gift