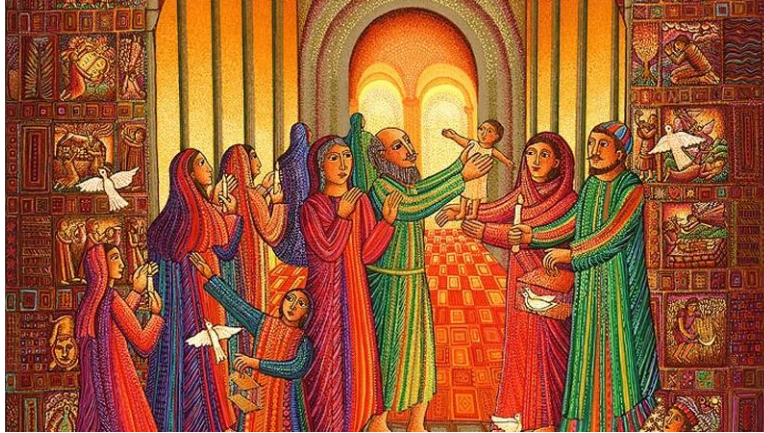


Order of Worship
First Church Congregational
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the
United Church of Christ
Fairfield, Connecticut



DECEMBER 27, 2020

First Sunday after Christmas Day

Prelude

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts

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

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

Leader: Praise be to God who has given God's light to us.

People: Honor and praise to God for God's most precious gift.

Leader: The shadows that enveloped the people,

People: Has been pierced by the Light.

Leader: Let us rejoice in God's blessed goodness!

People: Let us continually praise God with great joy and thanksgiving. Amen!

Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, — "Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring;
 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord!

5
 Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ner rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time and the Sav - ior comes, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.

9
 Joy - ful, all you saints a - rise, — join the tri - umph of the skies; —
 Veiled in flesh, the God - head see; — hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty, —

13
 With the an - gel host pro - claim, "Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Je - sus, — our Em - man - u - el.

17
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry — to the Christ - child bring!"

Unison Prayer of Invocation and Lord’s Prayer

Lord of mercy and joy, you have come to us in the Babe of Bethlehem, who will continue to make known your presence, forgiveness, and love to each one of us. Be with us this day and keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and peace. We pray that out of all the difficulties of life, we may be people of joy and hope. All this we pray in the name of Jesus who taught 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

Christ Candle

CONNECT: Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut

Musical Interlude

Silent Night

Franz Gruber

Scripture

Luke 2:22-40

Sermon “For my eyes have seen your salvation”

The Reverend David W. Spollett

A Time for Silent Reflection

Hymn

“What Child Is This?”

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
Why lies the Child in man - ger bare where ox and ass are feed - ing?
Bring gifts of in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in ju - bi - la - tion;

4
Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Give heed, draw near; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The Ho - ly Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's sal - va - tion.

9
This, this, the an - gels sing, is Christ, God's ho - ly of - fer - ing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the moth - er sings her lull - a - by;

13
Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mar - y!

Joys and Concerns

*A generous donation to the Deacons' Fund, in lieu of flowers,
has been made to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Sigrid Liliberg, Judy Faulkner, and Alison Nelson
by Rita, Jon and David Skog*

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 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice 14th Century German Melody

Go in peace and strength to love and serve the Lord and all God's people

+ + +

LEADING US IN WORSHIP

The Reverend David W. Spollett

Mr. Robert Codio, Worship Music Leader

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, Fenton Furrer, Gayle Hand, Joyce Hutchings, Christy Jefremow, Cathy Kane and her brother Scott and great niece, Adelaide Kitchen, Alice and Jerry Krenke, Lillian Klein, Gerry Kuroghlian, Mimi Maniscalco, Stu Nazzaro, Kathy O'Brien, Gerry O'Donovan, Jack Robinson, Charlie Simmons, Donna Schmidt, 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.

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

Those on the Front Lines of COVID-19:

Members of First Church: Eric Anderson, Michelle Baker, Laura Burr, Pertrinea Cash, Brooke Hine, Greg Jefremow, Kristin Koch, Kristin Lupo, Beth McKinnis, Kim Chaffee Trupp, Edite Weddle; *and Friends of First Church:* Elizabeth Brennan, Raquel Canete, Marguerite Dolan, Fairfield EMS, Ericka Gordon, Stephen Huelskamp, Tracie and Devon Lingenfelter, Lauren Redler McGrath, Maria Pellegrino, Diane Marble, Casey Redler, Maria Sutton, Anna Taft, Westport EMS, and Ann Yergeau.

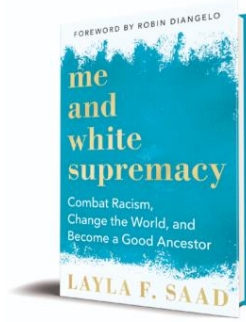
Family and Friends: Gabe, George, Gloria and Eric, John Anderson, Brenda Baker, Nick Bandanza, Anne Barnes, Barbara Barton, Walter Beck, Doreen Birdsell, Michelle Browser, Kevin Butler, Jaret Chase, Meg Cavanaugh, Amber Chiang, Clara Chokenea, David Ciaburro,

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, 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, Barnie Keller, Steve Kinne, Nancy Kovacs, Jeannette Lazarus, 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, Morgan Paige, Parus Family, Erika Pascarello, Amadeu Pereira, Mike Platt, Dimitri Psachoulias,, Katie Pieterse, Sara Redeghieri,, Dick Reese, Hilarys Rivera, Sally and Paul Robinson, Katelyn S., Greg Sago, Larry Lawrence (Connie Sargent's cousin), Ken Sawicki, 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, 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, Sydney West and family, Barrie Wright, Brian Zagorski, Reva Zamero, and James Zamora's family.

The Needs of God's Beloved World:

- Those who are suffering the effects of the economic crisis: lost jobs, businesses closed, wide spread food insecurity, threat of eviction or foreclosure, and homelessness
- All who have suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic: over **78 million afflicted**, many living with chronic conditions; nearly **1.8 million deaths** worldwide; and more than **325,000 deaths** in the US
- Health care professionals who provide care for COVID-19 patients as new cases surge
- Thanksgiving for all who created effective and safe Coronavirus vaccines in record time
- Essential workers who have continued to work in spite of the risk
- Parents and all who are involved in education: teachers, administrators, and staff who are doing the best they can juggling schedules, rules, COVID-19 testing, and shutdowns
- 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
- 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
- First, we pray and then we work for justice and its fruit which is peace



Create the change the world needs by creating change within yourself

--- Layla Saad

You are invited to join a group of 10-12 First Church members in intimate conversation about white supremacy.

Beginning Thursday January 21 (7-830 pm), the Working for Racial Justice strategic pathway team is hosting a 12-week *Me and White Supremacy* Zoom workshop series to combat racism, change the world and become a good ancestor.

To learn more, or to register, please contact clara.harmon@sbcglobal.net / 203 816 7318 (cell)



Monday Night Faith Discussion Group

Perhaps you curious about the NOOMA video series Vanessa mentioned in her sermon that the confirmation class was watching? Perhaps you've heard about Rob Bell and want to hear more of his work? Or you want to spend an hour talking with others in the church about issues of faith? Starting January 11th, David McKinnis will lead a discussion group over Zoom for six weeks using Rob Bell's acclaimed NOOMA videos as our jumping off point. If you have not seen the NOOMA videos they are expertly crafted short, spiritual reflections. Each video is independent so you can attend whichever weeks you are able. We will gather to socialize starting at 7:30 with the program starting at 7:45. Contact david via email at david@bethanddavid.org call/text 203-246-8138 if you are interested.

JOIN US

CONNECT JANUARY ASSEMBLY

01.12.21

7:00 - 8:30 PM

REGISTER HERE:
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/NUBWHFXRRZ
WEBBUCA](https://forms.gle/NUBWHFXRRZWEBBUCA)

