

FIRST CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL, FAIRFIELD

*Our **Purpose** is to love God and our neighbor as ourselves.
Our **Mission** is to welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.
Our **Vision** is a just world for all.*



JULY 18, 2021 — 10:15 AM
THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome! How wonderful it is to worship together indoors. In keeping with guidance from the Fairfield Department of Public Health, please wear a mask and practice social distancing. Hymns will be sung by a soloist or small group. These simple steps will help keep us all safe! **All the People of God (that's you!) speak the text in boldface.** Worship leaders speak the text in regular type. *Italic Text provides explanation or instruction.*

WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Welcome & Announcements

We seek to extend the extravagant welcome of God to all people, all the time. Regardless of your race, class, ancestry, gender identity, marital status, ability, age, immigration status, or sexual orientation, you are always welcome at First Church. We affirm your inherent dignity as a child of God. God created you just as you are and loves you just as you are. We do, too!

Prelude

My Lord, What A Morning

Spiritual, arr. Carlson

***Call to Worship**

Come to our God, all who hunger for life:

For it is God who nourishes us at the Table of Grace.

Come to our God, all who are worn out by life:

For it is God who provides the rest we need.

Come to our God, all who are weighed down:

For it is our God who carries our burdens with us.

Leader: Come away and rest:

People: God grants rest for our souls and nourishes us for worship!

Hymn

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Please meditate as you listen to the hymn, since we are limiting singing to keep the most vulnerable among us safe.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of
Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
your clouds which are fountains of goodness
and love.

Your life is life-giving - to both great and small;
in all life you're living, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
then wither and perish - but naught dims your
powers.

So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render and your angels do:
in awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

***Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer**

Please respond:

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.

Scripture Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sermon The Reverend Suzanne Wagner

Musical Offering Ps. 23: *Shepherd Me, O God* Marty Haugen

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Invitation to the Offering

Hymn *Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?*

Please meditate as you listen to the hymn, since we are limiting singing to keep the most vulnerable among us safe.

Won't you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

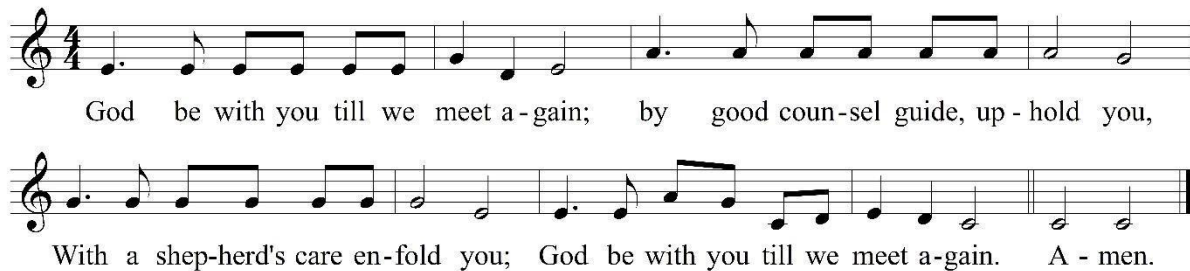
I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

Won't you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

Prayer of Dedication

Benediction and Sung Response



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 *If You But Trust in God to Guide You* Neumark, arr. Sowash

Leading Us in Worship

The Reverend Suzanne Wagner
Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music and Organist
Cheryl Zilinyi, Hymn Leader
Cheri Evan, Alan Fuehring, Andrew and David McKinnis, Technical Team

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Please Hold in your Prayers

Disciples at First Church: Mary Ann Bamford, Sandy Bromer; Ken and Betsy Dalling; Sonia Gutierrez and Henry Hernandez; Christy Jefremow; Cathy Kane, her brother Scott and great niece Amelia; Adelaide Kitchen; Alice and Jerry Krenke; Lillian Klein; Gerry Kuroghlian; Gerry O'Donovan; Tommy Petraglia; Donna Schmidt; 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, Sean Lomnitzer, and Christopher 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;

Friends of First Church: Elizabeth Brennan, Marguerite Dolan (Matt Dolan's mom), Fairfield EMS, Ericka Gordon, Stephen Huelskamp, Tracie and Devon Lingenfelter, Lauren Redler McGrath, Maria Pellegrino, Diane Marble, Casey Redler, Maria Sutton (First Baptist Church) , Anna Taft, and Ann Yergeau.

Family and Friends: Thelma Anderson (David McKinnis' Aunt); Connor, Mike & Jess Callahan (friends of Rita Skog); Clara Chokenea (Clara Harmon's Mom); Elizabeth Clark (friend of the Gindek family); Brandon Deedon (Pertrinea Cash's son); Tom Dwyer (Phil's brother); Sharon Friedlander (Connie Sargent's cousin), Greg Fregio; Linda Goldstein (friend of Poppy Buonomo), Greenawalt and Darnall Families (Gindek family); Christina Holms (Connie and Bill Sargent's niece); Norma Jenkins and Family (friends of the Gindek family);

Nancy and Paul King; Tim Marble (Charlotte Dyslin's brother); MaKayla and John McGovern (friends of Donna Kersten); Artie Quinn; Sara Redeghieri (the Spollett's "Italian" daughter); Jenna Sargent (Connie and Bill's grandaughter), Nan Scarbrough (David McKinnis' dad's wife), Levi Schmidt (friend of Penny Stevens); Darlene and Bobby Scaia (Pat Bilotto's cousins); Dorothy Steinman; Seth Sullivan (Jacque Paige's nephew); Hayder, Nada, Ali, and Leith Tawfiq (friends of First Church); Danielle Taal and her five sons (Lauren and Joe Strickland's daughter and grandsons) and Doug and Diana Vargas (CCGB).

The Needs of God's Beloved World

- All the victims and their families of the building collapse in Surfside, Florida.
- All those suffering from severe weather and wildfires in the Western US.
- People targeted and victimized by all hatreds, especially anti-Asian messages and violence.
- All who have suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic, especially suffering from the surges in India, South America and elsewhere. More than 600,000 people in the US and ~4 million worldwide have died.
- Those who are suffering economically due to the pandemic.
- Health care workers who care for COVID-19 patients and all who are sick.
- All who live with addiction, their loved ones, those who have died, and those in recovery.
- All victims & loved ones who are killed or wounded in the American epidemic of gun violence; 8,100 killed (54 people per day) and 270 mass shooting this year.
- Survivors of sexual assault, abuse, and harassment and those who love them.
- All who work to prevent domestic violence and to care for the victims.
- All who are committed to the work of antiracism.
- All who are involved in education: parents, teachers, administrators, and staff.

- All who suffer from loneliness, depression, all mental illnesses, and their families.
- The Uighur, Rohingya, and Karen people who are subjected to genocidal violence.
- The people of Darfur, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mozambique, Central African Republic, Chad, Nigeria, Syria, Libya, Dem. Rep. of Congo, Yemen and all who are suffering the ravages of war.
- Nearly 80 million refugees and displaced people around the world.
- Our community partners: FaithActs for Education; Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport (CCGB); Mercy Learning Center; Operation Hope; Westbridge; Simply Smiles; Make the Road Connecticut; Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut (CONNECT); and the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI).



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.

Pastoral Leadership and Care Summer 2021



We are very pleased that our good friend and former Associate Pastor of First Church, The Reverend Suzanne Wagner, will be with us again this July during David's vacation.

Suzanne will lead worship and preach on Sundays July 11, 18 and 25 and will provide leadership and care for the entire month. The best way to reach Suzanne is email: swagner5@yahoo.com, or call/text 203-545-6562.

David Spollett and Vanessa Rose (one or the other) will be on hand in August:
From August 1 – 17, call/text David at 203-414-0496.
From August 18 – 31, call/text Vanessa at 617-921-8648.
Both David & Vanessa will be on hand after September 1.

Vacation and Contracted Time Off for Pastoral Team

David Spollett July 1-July 31 & August 18-31
Cheri Evan June 30-July 16
Alex Ackley July 1-July 31
Vanessa Rose July 1- August 20.

Vanessa will be attending, with NGLI, the UCC General Synod from July 11-18

Summer Worship Schedule

Sasco Beach at 8:15		Wakeman Hall at 10:15 and Online	
July 25	Paul Whitmore		Suzanne Wagner
August 1	David Spollett		David Spollett
August 8	Julie Center, Student Minister		David Spollett
August 15	David Spollett		David Spollett
August 22	Julie Center		Vanessa Rose
August 29	Vanessa Rose		Vanessa Rose
September 5	David Spollett		David Spollett