



# 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 25, 2021 — 10:15 AM**

**The Ninth 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**

*Unidos en la Fiesta (United at the Table)*

Madurga, arr. Al Roberts

### **\*Call to Worship**

Rejoice folks, Jesus is in our midst.

**Feed us, Jesus, and fill us with hope.**

Be glad friends, Jesus has bread and fish to share.

**Free us, Jesus, from the pursuit of food that does not satisfy.**

Sing for joy, people of God;

**God gathers up the pieces of our lives, that nothing may be lost.**

**Thanks be to God!**

## Hymn

### *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

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

I sing the mighty power of God  
that made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad,  
and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at God's  
command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of our God  
that filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures with a word,  
and then pronounced them good.  
Oh, how your wonders are displayed,  
where'er I turn my eye:  
If I survey the ground I tread,  
or gaze upon the sky!

On earth there's not a plant or flower  
but makes your glories known.  
The clouds arise and spread their  
showers by order from your throne.  
All life is but a gift from you  
and ever in your care;  
Wherever people gather, you,  
O God, are present there.

## **\*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**

John 6:1-21

**Sermon**

'Abundance!'

The Reverend Suzanne Wagner

## Musical Offering

### *Far From the Markets*

Far from the markets of rich meat and wine,  
Jesus invited five thousand to dine.  
Phillip looked out on the crowd and despaired:  
Fortunes were needed to get things prepared.

Jesus however, with confident joy,  
Laid his hands over the gifts from the boy.  
Blessing the giver of fish and of bread,  
Trusting completely the crowd would be fed.

Lest we like Phillip and Andrew conclude  
We lack enough to give everyone food,  
Let us each offer what each can afford,  
Turning together in prayer to the Lord.

Finding a child with two fish and five loaves,  
Andrew as well would have sent home the droves.  
Certain that what would be supper for one,  
Shared with one other would quickly be done.

Out on the hillside in rows on the grass,  
Everyone found there was plenty to pass,  
Let us each offer what each can afford,  
Turning together in prayer to the Lord.

Come to this table, Christ, come and preside.  
Touch with your spirit the gifts we provide,  
Bless with your presence the breaking of bread.  
Then we are certain we all shall be fed.

- Thomas H. Troeger

## Joys and Concerns

### Prayers of the People

### Invitation to the Offering

## Hymn

### *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

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

Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy;  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Christ is able to make us one,  
at his table he sets the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
love in word and in deed express.  
[Refrain]

Refrain:  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) everywhere! [Refrain]

## 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

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* adapted Potter, arr. Carter

## Leading Us in Worship

The Reverend Suzanne Wagner

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music and Organist

Jane Barnes, Hymn Leader

Cheri Evan, Alan Fuehring, Andrew and David McKinnis, Technical Team

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Posted on the Ministry Matters website <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>

## Please Hold in your Prayers

Congratulations to Doug and Laura Koch on the birth of their granddaughter Olivia Grace born July 16th!

Our sympathy and prayers are with Sunday Haras in the death of her son, Thomas Brill.

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); 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 shootings 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, ShopRite, 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](mailto: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



**Sunday, August 15th  
after 10:15 Worship In-Person and on Zoom**

Please give thoughtful and prayerful consideration on the following items for discussion and vote:

- First, we will receive the Facilities Board's recommendation for a mechanical air circulation (HVAC) system for the Sanctuary, with the hope that this will be ready for Congregational approval by the 15th.
- Secondly, in anticipation of the significant expenses related to this work, the Finance Board recommended to Council that we sell the parsonage at 127 Rowland Road. Council unanimously approved this to be put forth for Congregational vote. Our most important priority is to be able to worship together, and the sale would free up significant capital to be invested back into our use of the Sanctuary. As a part of this recommendation, we also considered the trend of full-time pastors moving away from parsonage living and to owning their own home, and a very strong residential real estate market right now. For reference, the current renter's lease expires on August 31, and she may be interested in purchasing this property. If not, we would be listing it for \$1.035 million.

On behalf of the Finance and Facilities Boards, as well as Council, thank you for your consideration. We look forward to seeing you on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7250635457?pwd=bHByL0Z3ODFhZGZQbDYrRWZTVVYyZz09>

Meeting ID: 725 063 5457

Passcode: 113372

CALL IN:

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 725 063 5457

Passcode: 113372

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7250635457?pwd=bHByL0Z3ODFhZGZQbDYrRWZTVVYyZz09>