



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



September 8, 2024
16th Sunday after Pentecost
10:15 A.M.

Welcome!

Welcome to our guests! Thank you for being here. It is such a joy to worship with you. Please speak to any member of the Pastoral Team if you would like to explore how our church may become your spiritual home. As an **Open and Affirming** congregation 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!

Children's Ministries: Children's Ministries: Babies are always welcome in the Sanctuary during worship. We also have a nursery (accessible through the "baby breezeway" in the back of the Sanctuary). First Church offers child care (for ages 3 months to 3 years) with professional nursery staff on Sundays @ 9:45am-11:45am. Sunday School classes are known as "Disciple Road" (age 4 through 5th grade) and "Middle Road" (6th grade and up). We also have a children's choir. Reach out to Kim Feeney (kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org) for more information about our children's ministries & faith formation programs.

We have a **hearing assist system** for those with Bluetooth enabled hearing aids available and also have receivers with earpieces available. Please speak to an usher for assistance.

Worship leaders speak the text in regular type.
All the People of God speak the text in boldface.

Italic Text provides explanation or instruction.

* Please stand if you are able

WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prelude

Canzon No. 8 "La Fontana"
Canzona No. 2

Florentio Maschera
Giovanni Gabrieli

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Oh, I Know the Lord's Laid His Hands on Me

African-American Spiritual

***Call to Worship**

One: Praise God! Come, let us praise God together! Blessed are we who place our trust in the Lord our God.

All: For our God is the Maker of the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything that lives within them;

One: Our God keeps every promise, and remains faithful forever.

All: Our God gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who are starving.

One: Our God frees the prisoners, opens the eyes of the blind, and lifts the burdens of those who are overwhelmed.

All: Our God cherishes those who do what is right, protects the immigrants, cares for the orphans and widows, but frustrates the plans of the wicked.

One: Our God reigns—today, tomorrow and forever.

***Hymn**

God Is Here! As We Your People

70 New Century Hymnal

(Please join the choir in verses 1 and 4)

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

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

Passing the Peace

One: May the peace of God be with you!

All: And also with you!

We greet one another with a sign of peace.

Children may go with their friends and teachers to Disciple Road and Middle Road.

Candle of Witness

Therese LeFever, Our Woven Community

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

***Hymn of Praise**

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

Scripture

Psalm 146, Mark 7:24-37

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

Hymn

We Cannot Measure How You Heal

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are arranged in three verses. The first system contains the first three lines of the first verse. The second system contains the first three lines of the second verse. The third system contains the first three lines of the third verse. The fourth system contains the first three lines of the fourth verse. The lyrics are as follows:

1 We can - not mea - sure how you heal or
2 The pain that will not go a - way, the
3 So some have come who need your help and

an - swer ev - ery suf - ferer's prayer, yet
guilt that clings from things long past, the
some have come to make a - mends, as

we be - lieve your grace re - sponds where
fear of what the fu - ture holds, are
hands which shaped and saved the world are

faith and doubt u - nite to care. Your
pres - ent as if meant to last. But
pres - ent in the touch of friends. Lord,

hands, though blood - ied on the cross, sur -
pres - ent too is love which tends the
let your Spir - it meet us here to

vive to hold and heal and warn, to
hurt we nev - er hoped to find, the
mend the bod - y, mind, and soul, to

car - ry all through death to life and
pri - vate ag - o - nies in - side, the
dis - en - tan - gle peace from pain, and

cra - dle chil - dren yet un - born.
mem - o - ries that haunt the mind.
make your bro - ken peo - ple whole.

Joys and Concerns *Today's flowers are donated in the memory of Charles Donovan by his friends Heather and Frank Martignetti.*

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* Lee Dengler

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done.
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn** *In Christ There Is No East or West* 394 *New Century Hymnal*

***Benediction and Response** *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 *Fanfare on "Abbot's Leigh"* Charles Callahan

Leading Us in Worship

The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Pastor

The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Kimberly Feeney, Director of Disciple Road

Chancel Choir

Brass Quartet: Ken Tedeschi, trumpet; Jeff Albright, trumpet; Nicole

Bilotto, trombone; Keith Johnston, trombone

Ray Weber, timpani

Deacon: Heather Hodgemann

Ushers: Amy-Alison Ward and Tom Croarkin

Please Hold in Your Prayers

Disciples at First Church: We pray for Christian Bassett; Chris Bernd; Sandy Bromer; Glen Brown; LaNeil Brown, Sr.; Linda Corby; Betsy Dalling; Fernando Destruge; Charlotte Jefremow; Christy Jefremow; Nancy Jones and family; Cathy Kane, her brother Scott and great niece Amelia; Adelaide Kitchen; Jerry Krenke; Penny Stevens; Joann Van Esselstyn; Kathy Verdier; Andrea Wakeman; Elinor Wilber; and Edith Zambo. We hold in our prayers all those who face living with memory loss and Alzheimer's disease and we pray for their caregivers.

Serving in the military: James Classy, Sam Classy, Trevor Dawson, David Elmore, Andrew Holms, Charles Ikeda, Kelcy McKenzie, and Christopher Muschett.

Family and Friends: Connie Accomando (Jim's mom); the family and friends of Helen Barnum; Diane Studwell Crawley; Brandon Deedon (Pertrinea Cash's son); Paul Douglas (Rita Skog's cousin); Lynelle Dupuis (sister of Bethany); Carter Faustini; Kimberly Fetteri (friend of the Gindek family); Anthony Gentile, Nate Gifford (Connie Sargent's cousin); Greenawalt and Darnall Families (Gindek family); Bill Fry (Penny Stevens' brother-in-law); Catherine Grover; Walter Haenn (brother of Madeline Lee); Yochai Harel, Melanie Rainbow-Harel and family (friends of Michelle Walker); Peter Hey (brother of Lin Clayton); Christina Holms (Connie and Bill Sargent's niece); Erol Kephalas (cousin of Rita Skog); Nancy King (Friend of Paul Cahill); Janice Klein and the family of Lillian Klein; Susan Labas (friend of Patty Bilotto); Peter Maloney; Verne Marble (Charlotte Dyslin's mother); Dorothy Michalowski (friend of Connie and Bill Sargent); Andre Mirkine; Barbara Peterson (friend of Ted and Judy Andre); Artie Quinn; Dick Reese (father in law of Melissa Stanhewicz); Patty Roberts (cousin of Connie and Bill Sargent); Rosalie Rutkauskas (Jessie's Grandmother); Darlene and Bobby Scaia (Pat Bilotto's cousins); David Skog (son of Rita Skog); Stephen Stenberg (son of Jeanne Reed's college friend); Danielle Taal, daughter of Joe and Lauren Strickland, and their five grandsons in Libya; Hayder, Nada, Ali, and Leith Tawfiq (friends of First Church), John Anderson (David McKinnis' uncle); Mark, Crystal and baby Selene (friends of Beth McKinnis.); and John Walsh.

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