



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Sermon on the Mount, Laura James

October 20, 2024
22nd Sunday after Pentecost
10:15

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.

Leading Us in Worship

The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Pastor

The Rev. Jake Joseph, Preacher in Residence

Kim Feeney, Director of Disciple Road

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Chancel Choir

Deacons: Dave Welchman & Louisa Hain

Usher: Rita Skog

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 *This Is My Father's World* arr. Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Register

Introit *Many and Great, O God* Native American

Call to Worship

One: We are called into community with this assurance:

All: God asks angels to guard us in all our ways!

One: We give abundantly with the hope that:

All: On eagles wings they will bear us up.

One: ...that we will not dash a foot against a stone.

All: And here God is with us, encouraging us, holding us in hope and truth.

***Hymn** *Sing Praise to God* *22 New Century Hymnal*

***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

Imagine Together

Jane Barnes

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 91: 9-16

Sermon

Living on Eagle's Wings: Stakeholders in the Divine

The Rev. Jake Joseph

Hymn

On Eagles Wings



1. You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a - bide in his shad-ow for



1. life, say to the Lord: "My ref-uge, my rock in whom I trust!"



And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings,



bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the

(last time to Coda) to Verses

sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

VERSE 2

2.The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will

2.bring you no fear: un-der his wings your ref-uge, his faith-ful-ness your shield. to Refrain

VERSE 3

3.You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by

3.day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come. to Refrain

VERSE 4

4.For to his an-gels he's giv-en a com-mand to guard you in all of your ways; up-

4.on their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot a-gainst a stone. to Refrain

CODA

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Joys and Concerns

The flowers this morning are donated by Cathy, Caroline, and Olivia Kane in loving memory of their mother and grandmother, Carole Ferguson, and dedicated to all our mothers and women at First Church.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Teach Me O Lord

Thomas Attwood

Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes,
and I will keep them unto the end. — Psalm 119, v.33

*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

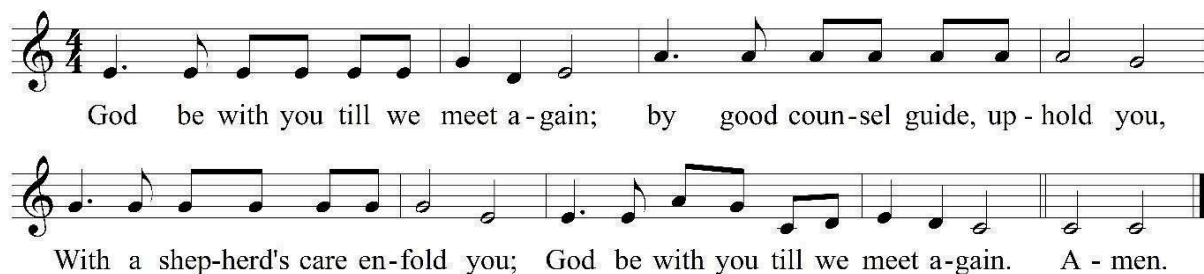
*Hymn

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1 *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

Lobe Den Herrn

Max Drischner

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Please Hold in Your Prayers

Please hold Judy Magness, the wife of Fred Woltersdorf, along with his family and friends in your prayers. Fred passed away on October 12. Please hold Nan Jackson and her family in your prayers following the loss of her beloved daughter Annie Jackson. Annie leaves her husband Rajeeve Srinith and teenage daughters, Lyra and Tait. Many will remember Annie from her years growing up at First Church.

Disciples at First Church: We pray for Christian Bassett; Chris Bernd; Sandy Bromer; 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); Tracy Bloom (sister of Michael Traum); 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); David Green (friend of David McKinnis), 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 Kephelas (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); Heather McNicholl (friend of Charlotte Dyslin), 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.

Please stay for Fellowship Hour
in the Webb Room following this
service of worship



All are welcome!



Men's Retreat: November 15-17

The men of our congregation are invited to join Connect: A Retreat for Men at the beautiful Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, Ct., the weekend of November 15 to 17. The retreat is an opportunity to build relationships and community through Christ. Open to UCC men from throughout New England, this retreat will be lead by our Pastor Emeritus, The Rev. David W. Spollett and The Rev. Todd Shipley. This promises to be a fantastic time to connect with other men through God.

To register visit: <https://bit.ly/FEAMensRetreat>.
For details and more information, please contact David McKinnis at 203-246-8138 or david@bethanddavid.org.

HEAR THE MAJESTIC PIPE ORGAN AS YOU'VE NEVER HEARD IT BEFORE!

AGO
GREATER BRIDGEPORT CHAPTER
presents the
23rd Annual

Pipe Organ Scraps!

Presenting Halloween delights for all ages, a short silent movie, a costume parade & contest with refreshments to follow!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024 4:00pm

FIRST CHURCH OF FAIRFIELD
148 Beach Road, Fairfield, CT 06824

Tickets: \$30/Adults, \$15/Seniors, \$10/Students (12-17); FREE for children 11 & under
Donations made at greaterbridgeportago.org benefit the Miller-Knox Scholarship Fund

 **CONNECT**
Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut
Congregaciones Organizadas para un Nuevo Connecticut

FALL ASSEMBLY
Building Power for democracy
Monday, October 21st. 7:00PM
"BITES & BANTER" PRE-EVENT @ 6:15PM

LOCATION
FIRST CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL
BACK ENTRANCE
148 BEACH RD FAIRFIELD, CT 06824
LOOK FOR SIGNS

ACTION & UPDATES:
HOUSING RESEARCH
CRIMINAL LEGAL REFORM
GUN SAFETY

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:
EARLY VOTING & "SOULS TO THE POLLS"
WORDS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Our Mission:
Build relationships
Develop leaders
Dismantle oppression
Take action
Lead change

SCAN OR CLICK LINK TO REGISTER
<https://forms.gle/uHf7wLaA3PA1xEU6>

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS:
INFO@WECONNECT.ORG

weconnect.org @connect_ct CONECTCT congregations organized for a new connecticut