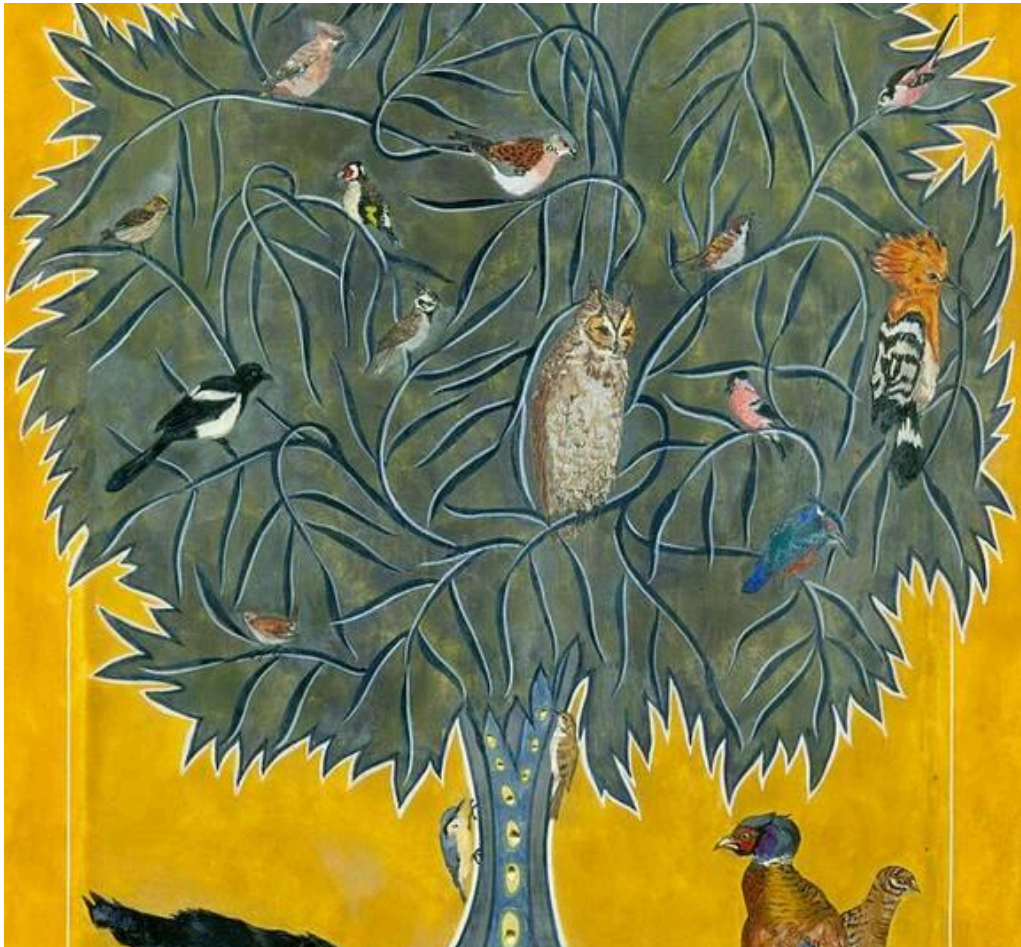




Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



The Mustard Seed Tree, Juliet Venter

November 10, 2024

10:15 a.m.

25th Sunday After Pentecost

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. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist

Kim Feeney, Director of Disciple Road

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Chancel Choir

Bell Choir

Deacon: Greg Jefremow

Ushers: Amy-Alison Ward & Tom Croarkin

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

Finlandia

Jean Sibelius, arr. Ingram

Welcome and Announcements and Friendship Register

Introit

I'm Going to Live So God Can Use Me

Spiritual

***Call to Worship**

based on Psalm 146

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

People: I will sing praises to God all my life long.

Leader: Our help is in God, creator of heaven and earth, who is forever faithful;
seeking justice for the oppressed and for the hungry;

**People: setting prisoners free and opening the eyes of the blind;
lifting up those who are bowed down and loving the righteous.**

Leader: The Lord protects strangers and upholds the orphan and widow;
but the way of the wicked is brought to ruin.

**People: The Lord our God will reign forever, for all generations.
Let us praise the Lord together!**

***Hymn**

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

257 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 are welcome to go to Disciple Road with their friends and teachers.

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

Excerpts from Ruth, Mark 12:38-44

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

*Hymn

This Is My Song

591 *New Century Hymnal*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Joys and Concerns

Today's flowers are given by Deb Gallagher to honor the service and sacrifice of the veterans who have served our country.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Give Alms of Thy Goods

Christopher Tye

Give alms of thy goods,
and turn never thy face from any poor man,
and then the face of the Lord
shall not be turned away from thee.

***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**

We All Are One In Mission

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.

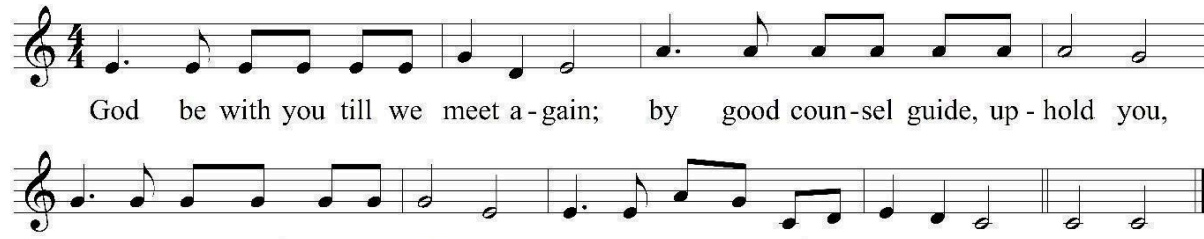
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.

A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

*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

Three Preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes III. Hyfrydol

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Please Hold in Your Prayers

Please hold the family of former member, John "Mac" Leask in your prayers, in particular his wife Phoebe. A funeral will be held here in the First Church Sanctuary on Monday November, 11th at noon.

Disciples at First Church: We pray for Christian Bassett; Chris Bernd; Sandy Bromer; LaNeil Brown, Sr.; Dan Christianson; Linda Corby; Betsy Dalling; Fernando Destruge; Gloria Evans; 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 Kephala (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); Lila (friend of Beth McKinnis); 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.

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Violins of Hope

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

DURING WORSHIP



Stories of instruments with powerful emotional histories tied to the Holocaust.

Environmental Justice Committee Meeting
Sunday, November 10



Vendors, Volunteers & Bakers Wanted



Three Kings Bazaar
at First Church of Fairfield,
Saturday Dec. 7 from 3 to 8 p.m.
Email office@firstchurchfairfield.org for details



THANKSGIVING GIFT CARDS

Covenant to Care is requesting donations of gift cards in denominations of \$25 to Shop Rite & Stop & Shop for families in need this Thanksgiving. Cards may be dropped off at the Church Office (weekdays between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.) for pickup by social workers on or before Nov. 21.