



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Town of Bethlehem, Brooklyn Swenson

December 1, 2024

10:15 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

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, Minister of Children and Families

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Deacons: Dave Welchman, Louisa Hain, Michelle Nolan & Rita Skog

Ushers: Candace Meader & Cheryl Camarato

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

My Lord, What a Morning

Spiritual, arr Carsen

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Register

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

Sung to the familiar tune "Picardy"

Shine on us, O God of justice;
Guide our path through gloom of night;
Bear within us Wisdom's glory;
Come to us, O Christ the Light.
Glory be to God and peace on earth
Christ is born! Alleluia!

***Call to Worship**

Based on Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Psalm 25:1-10

One: The Lord is our righteousness!

**All: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will cause a righteous branch to spring forth
and bring my promised salvation to Israel.**

One: The Lord is our righteousness!

**All: The days are surely coming, says our God,
when justice and mercy will prevail
throughout the land.**

One: The Lord is our righteousness!

**All: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when my promised one will teach transgressors my ways,
and heal the world with love and mercy.**

One: The Lord is our righteousness. Let us worship God together!

***Hymn**

My Lord, What a Morning

African American Spiritual

Refrain

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

***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

***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

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

***Hymn of Praise**

Gloria

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1982

1 Dm Gm C F 2 Dm Gm C F

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

3 Dm Gm C F 4 Dm Gm C F

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Scripture

Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 21:25-36

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

***Hymn**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

345 New Century Hymnal

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Joys and Concerns

Today's flowers are given by the Trupp family to the Glory of God and in remembrance of Andrew J. Trupp (Drew) who is thought of today and every day.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Ps. 25: *To You, O Lord*

Marty Haugen

***Doxology**

Sung to the familiar tune "Duke Street"

Praise God, the Source of life and birth;
Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame;
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

All are welcome to receive communion. The bread is gluten free and the cup contains grape juice.

Voluntary

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

J. S. Bach

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have renewed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith in you, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ. Amen

***Hymn**

Lift Up Your Heads

117 *New Century Hymnal*

***Benediction and Response**

Light Dawns on a Weary World

Rowan and Bringle

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in C, BWV 553

J. S. Bach

Please Hold in Your Prayers

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 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); 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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Covenant to Care Holiday Gift Drive

Sign up & take gift tags at our Sunday, Dec. 1 & Dec. 8 services for delivery to social workers by Dec. 15

Help make the holiday season brighter by joining us to purchase gifts in the \$30 range for children in need this holiday season.



For details contact Marilyn Henry at (203) 255-5296

Three Kings Bazaar



at First Church of Fairfield,
Saturday Dec. 7 from 3 to 8 p.m.

Email office@firstchurchfairfield.org for details

All Are Welcome!

Christmas Eve Pageant 2024



Tuesday, December 24 at 4 p.m.

Featuring the children of Disciple & Middle Road