



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Jesus Mural of Faith, Love & Peace, Chicago, Illinois

10:15 a.m.

January 26, 2025

Third Sunday After the Epiphany

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. Jake Joseph, Preacher in Residence

The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Pastor

The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Kim Feeney, Minister of Children & Families

Chancel Choir

Krista Lindell, flute

Deacons: Dave Welchman and Greg Jefremow

Usher: Heather Hodgeman

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

Christ, Be Our Light

Farrell, arr. Schmoltze

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Register

Introit

We Hail You, God's Anointed

James Montgomery

***Call to Worship**

One: If you're lost you can look and you will find me

All: Time after time

One: If you fall, I will catch you, I'll be waiting

All: Time after time

One: If you're lost, you can look and you will find me

All: Time after time

One: If you fall, I will catch you, I will be waiting

All: Time after time. Amen.

***Hymn**

God Is Here!

70 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.

***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.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Joys and Concerns

Today's flowers were donated by Joy Nazzaro in memory of her husband Stu Nazzaro and her brother Mal Schumann.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offertory

Offertory

Christ, Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell, arr. Raney

Christ, be our light.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. Christ, be our light!

Christ, be our light! shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. Christ, be our light!

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. Christ, be our light!

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. Christ, be our light

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

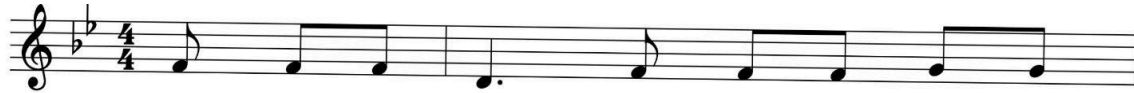
Praise God for all that love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Hymn

How Great Thou Art



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some
 2. When thru the woods and for - est glades I
 3. And when I think that God, His Son not
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla -



won - der Con - sid - er all the worlds Thy hands have
 wan - der And hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the
 spar - ing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it
 ma - tion And take me home, what joy shall fill my



made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing
 trees, When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
 in That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
 heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r thru - out the un - i - verse dis - played!
 gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze.
 bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin!
 ra - tion And there pro - claim, my God, how great Thou art!



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee; How great Thou



art, how great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee; How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

*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

In Christ There Is No East or West

arr. Dale Wood

Please Hold in Your Prayers

Disciples at First Church: We pray for Chris Bernd; Sandy Bromer; LaNeil Brown, Sr.; Dan Christianson; 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; Beth McKinnis, Penny Stevens; Julie Traum; Doug Van Esselstyn and the family and friends of Joann Van Esselsteyn; 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); Chris Coogan, (friend of Paul Cahill) 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 (borther of Lin Clayton); Christina Holms (Connie and Bill Sargent's niece); Nancy King (Friend of Paul Cahill); 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; Helen Ranholm (cousin of Connie Sargent), 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); John Anderson (David Mckinnis' uncle); Mark, Crystal and baby Selene (friends of Beth McKinnis.); Dr. Abraham Yale.

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Annual Pasta Dinner, Today from 5 to 7 p.m.



Walk-ins are welcome today for the first meal prepared in our newly renovated Wakeman Hall kitchen! Join us for a delicious meal and socialize with our fellow congregants with all proceeds going towards the Deacon's Emergency Fund, which provides emergency assistance to community members in need of support.

Q & A Session, Sunday, Jan. 26 Immediately following the 10:15 a.m. service



*The congregation is invited to join
The Rev. Vanessa Rose and Patty Bilotto for a
Question and Answer Session on budgetary
expenditures related to the recent Wakeman
Hall renovations.*

All church members are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Violinist Andrew Sords



With pianist Elizabeth DeMio
and Special Guest Laura Nie, mezzo-soprano

Sunday, February 2 at 4 p.m.

First Church of Fairfield

148 Beach Road

Come hear this acclaimed classical violinist and these talented musicians perform a repertoire that includes pieces by Dvorak, Schubert, Strauss and Brahms.

Tickets: \$30, \$20 for seniors, \$10 for students at the door.