



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Sermon on the Mount, Unknown

10:15 a.m.

February 16, 2025

Sixth 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: 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
Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist
Kim Feeney, Minister of Children & Families
Chancel Choir
Deacons: Greg Jefremow
Ushers: Heather Hodgeman & 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 *Blessed Jesus, At Your Word* arr. Paul Manz

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Register

Introit *I Shall Not Be Moved* African-American Spiritual

***Call to Worship** Adapted from Psalm 1

One: Blessed are those who walk in the way of the Lord, who find delight in the teachings of God.

All: We gather to listen, to learn, and to be shaped by God's nourishing presence.

One: Like trees planted by streams of water, we are fed by God's love, growing in faith and grace.

All: We are rooted in God's word, flourishing in the light of justice and mercy.

One: Let us worship God, the one who leads us to life abundant, in wisdom, truth, and love.

All: With joy and gratitude, we offer our hearts to God.

***Hymn** *If You But Trust in God to Guide You* 410 *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.

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 1 & Jeremiah 17:5-10

Sermon

Christ Be Our Light

The Rev. Jake Joseph

*Hymn

Christ, Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am Dsus D

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain G C G Em Bm Em

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G

church gath - ered to - day.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Joys and Concerns

The flowers this morning are given by Kathy Verdier, Susan Burnett and family in loving memory of our parents William and Edith Verdier, who would have celebrated their 76th anniversary and our brother Bill 's birthday on Feb. 12.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Today's loose plate offering will benefit the Silver Lake Camp Scholarship Fund, providing camperships for children to attend this UCC affiliated summer camp in Litchfield County.

Offertory

Lord, Make Me An Instrument

M. Roger Holland, II

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
Loved, sa to love;
For it's in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it's in dying that we are born to eternal life.
—attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

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

God of Grace and God of Glory

436 *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

Cwm Rhondda

Welsh, arr. Paul Ma

Please Hold in Your Prayers

Please hold Cleo Vernon the mother of The Rev. Kathy Williamson in your prayers following her recent stroke.

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:** Hal Burdick (Friend of David McKinnis,) Connie Accomando (Jim's mom); Tracy Bloom (sister of Michael Traum); Catherine Brawer; 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); Scott Kimmel; Nancy King; Susan Labas (friend of Patty Bilotto); Peter Maloney; Verne Marble (Charlotte Dyslin's mother); John Mastropietro, Lila (friend of Beth McKinnis); Heather McNicholl (friend of Charlotte Dyslin), Dorothy Michalowski (friend of Connie and Bill Sargent); Andre Mirkine; Rosie Perera (friend of David McKinnis,) 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); Tedi Spotswood (David McKinnis' aunt), John Anderson (David Mckinnis' uncle); Mark, Crystal and baby Selene (friends of Beth McKinnis.); Cleo Vernon (The Rev. Kathy Williamson's mother), Dr. Abraham Yale.

Permissions

Blessed Jesus, At Thy Word and *Cwm Rhondda* arr. Paul Manz. © 1974. Published by Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP) A division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. *Christ, Be Our Light* © 1993 by Bernadette Farrell, published by Oregon Catholic Press. *Lord, Make Me An Instrument* by M. Roger Holland II. © GIA Publications. Livestreamed/reprinted with permission, OneLicense.net #A-731937.

Upcoming Service News



Est. 1639

The Rev. Vanessa Rose will be away on Sunday, Feb. 23. In her absence our Pastor Emeritus, The Rev. David W. Spollett, will lead our Feb. 23 services. David will also be available for any urgent pastoral care needs.

Men's Breakfast Group



Saturday, February 22 at 8 a.m.
Circle Diner, Fairfield

The men of First Church are invited to join our Men's Breakfast Group, which meets monthly at the diner. For more information, contact David McKinnis at 203-246-8138.



Est. 1639

The Members of
First Church
are invited to attend our
All-Church Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 7.p.m
Wakeman Hall

Refreshments at 7 p.m.
Business agenda at 7:30 p.m.

This is an in-person meeting.

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



All are welcome!