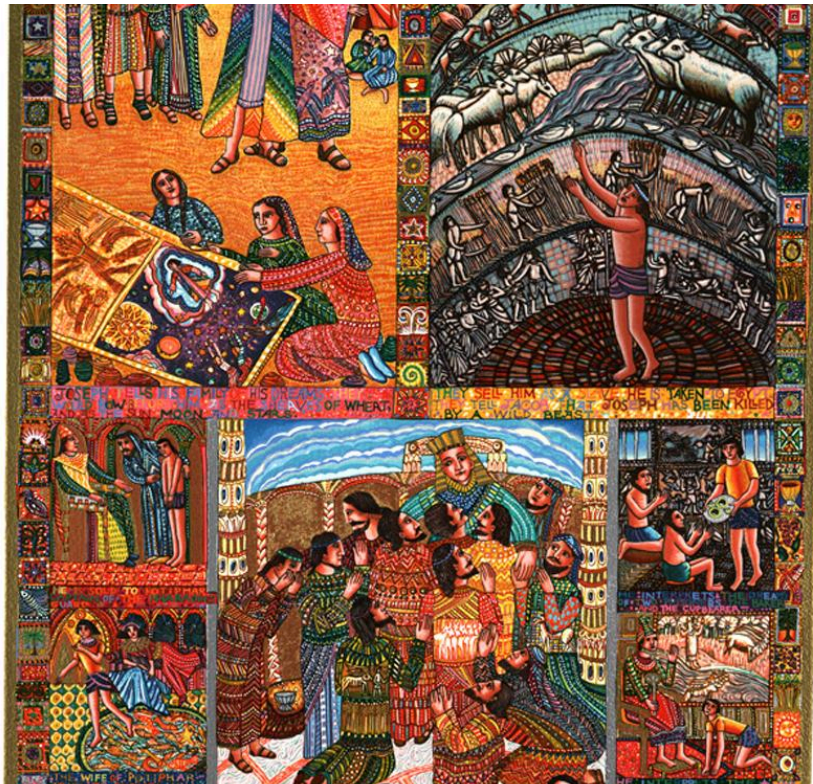




Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



*Story of Joseph*, John August Swanson

**10:15 a.m.**

**February 23, 2025**

**Seventh 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](mailto: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. David W. Spollett, Pastor Emeritus  
Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist  
Kim Feeney, Minister of Children & Families  
Chancel Choir  
Deacons: David McKinnis & Greg Jefremow  
Usher: Dave Welchman

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**

*Aurelia*

arr. Dana F. Everson

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Friendship Register**

**Introit**

*O For a World*

Wesley and Winter

**\*Call to Worship**

Adapted from Psalm 37

**One:** We have come to worship God, so do not fret because of all the evil happening in the world, for acts of evil will wither like the grass and soon die away.

**All:** **We will trust in the Lord, and follow in God's ways. We will delight in the Lord, who knows the desires of our hearts. We will be still before the Lord, and wait patiently before God.**

**One:** Let observe a time of silence... (We wait in silent prayer.) We trust, O Lord, that yet a little while and the works of evil will pass away and that the meek will inherit the earth.

**All:** **For we know that your Word is true and your love is everlasting. We respond in love, to commit ourselves to you, O God, with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength.**

**\*Hymn**

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

388 *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**

*Friends and Forgiveness*

**Candle of Witness**

The Souper Bowl of Caring

Middle Road

**\*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**

Deuteronomy 30:15-16,19-20a; Joshua 24:15; Luke 6:27-38

**Sermon** *Yogi Berra, Robert Frost, Moses, Joshua and Jesus: Five Perspectives on one Essential Question*

**\*Hymn**

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

*396 New Century Hymnal*

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Joys and Concerns**

The flowers today are given in loving memory of John and Mary Herlihy and Don and Bette Cornish by John and Suzanne Herlihy.

## 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

*For the Healing of the Nations*

576 *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

*Voluntary on "Westminster Abbey"*

K. Lee Scott

## Please Hold in Your Prayers

**Disciples at First Church:** We pray for Chris Bernd; Sandy Bromer; LaNeil Brown, Sr.; Dan Christianson; Betsy Dalling; Fernando Destrugé; 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 (borthor 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

*Aurelia*, arr. Dana F. Everson © 2001 David E. Smith Publications. *O For a World* text by Miriam Therese Winter. © 1987 Medical Mission Sisters. *Help Us Accept Each Other* text by Fred Kaan © 1975 Hope Publishing Co. *Where Charity and Love Prevail* text by Paul Benoit music by Omar Westendorf © 1960 World Library Publication. *Healer Of Our Every Ill* by Marty Haugen. © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc. *For the Healing of the Nations* text by Fred Kaan. © 1968 Hope Publishing Company.

# Fellowship Hour

Please join us immediately after this service for coffee and fellowship.

All are welcome!



Ash  
Wednesday

Our annual service will be held on  
March 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the  
sanctuary. Please join us as we  
begin the Lenten season!



The Racial Justice Committee of First Church presents:

# ***Kimberly Wilson in “A Journey” Musical One-Woman Show***



SCAN ME

**Saturday, March 22 at 7 p.m.**

**Wakeman Hall**

**First Church of Fairfield**

**148 Beach Road**

*In celebration of Women's History Month come see acclaimed performance artist Kimberly Wilson bring historical women including Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Rosa Parks and more to life. Witness their journey through song, movement, dialogue and audience participation. Then join Wilson for a question and answer session following the performance.*

***Tickets are \$25 and available at [FirstChurchFairfield.org](https://www.FirstChurchFairfield.org)***

***Email [office@firstchurchfairfield.org](mailto:office@firstchurchfairfield.org) with questions.***