



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Fishermen Let Down Your Nets, John August Swanson

10:15 a.m.

February 9, 2025

Fifth 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. Vanessa Rose, Pastor

The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Kim Feeney, Minister of Children & Families

Chancel Choir

Deacons: Greg Jefremow and Heather Hodgeman

Ushers: Amy-Alison Ward and 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 *Triptych on "Holy, Holy, Holy"* Jeffrey N. Blersch
I. "All the Saints Adore Thee"
II. "Our Song Shall Rise to Thee"

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Register

Introit *Thuma Mina (Send Me, Lord)* Trad. Zulu, South Africa

***Call to Worship** Based on Psalm 138

One: I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart.
I sing your praise and give thanks
for your steadfast love and faithfulness.
You have exalted your name and your word above everything.

**All: On the day I called, you answered me.
You increased my strength of soul.**

One: Though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.

**All: Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies.
You stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.**

One: The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me.
Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.

All: Let us worship God together!

***Hymn** *Holy, Holy Holy* 277 *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 Time

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

Luke 5:1-11

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

***Hymn**

Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult

172 New Century Hymnal

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Joys and Concerns

Today's flowers are given by Connie and Bill Sargent in loving memory of their parents, Ann and Ann and Howard Avery and Kay and Bill Sargent.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Two Fishermen

Suzanne Toolan

Two fishermen, who lived along the Sea of Galilee,
stood by the shore to cast their nets into an ageless sea.

Now Jesus watched them from afar, then called them each by name.

It changed their lives, these simple men;
they'd never be the same.

“Leave all things you have, and come and follow me, and come and follow me.”

And as he walked along the shore
'twas James and John he'd find,
and these two sons of Zebedee would leave their boats behind.

Their work and all they held so dear they left beside their nets.

Their names they'd heard as Jesus called; they came without regret.

O Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John beloved one,
you heard Christ's call to speak good news revealed to God's own Son.

Susanna, Mary, Magdalene who traveled with your Lord,
you ministered to him with joy for he is God adored.

And you, good Christians, one and all who'd follow Jesus' way,
come leave behind what keeps you bound to trappings of our day.

And listen as he calls your name to come and follow near;
for still he speaks in varied ways to those his call will hear.

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

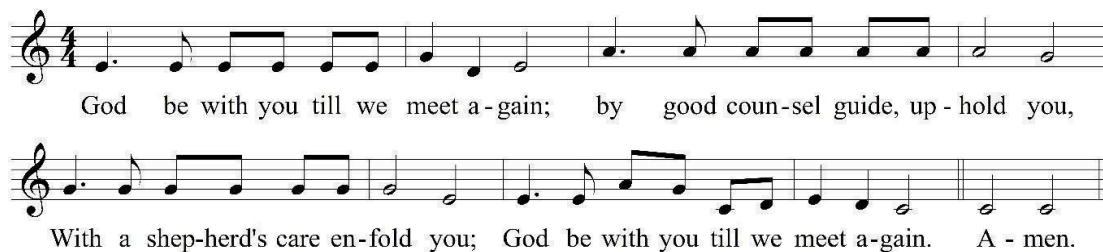
Hymn

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

276 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

Variations on "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"
II. "Trumpet Tune"

Jeffrey Blerch

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:** 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); 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.); Dr. Abraham Yale.

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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!

Upcoming Service News



Est. 1639

**The Rev. Vanessa Rose will be away on
Sundays, Feb. 16 & 23.**

**In her absence, The Rev. Jake Joseph will
lead worship on Feb. 16 and our Pastor
Emeritus, The Rev. David W. Spollett,
will lead our Feb. 23 services. David
will also be on call for pastoral care
emergencies.**