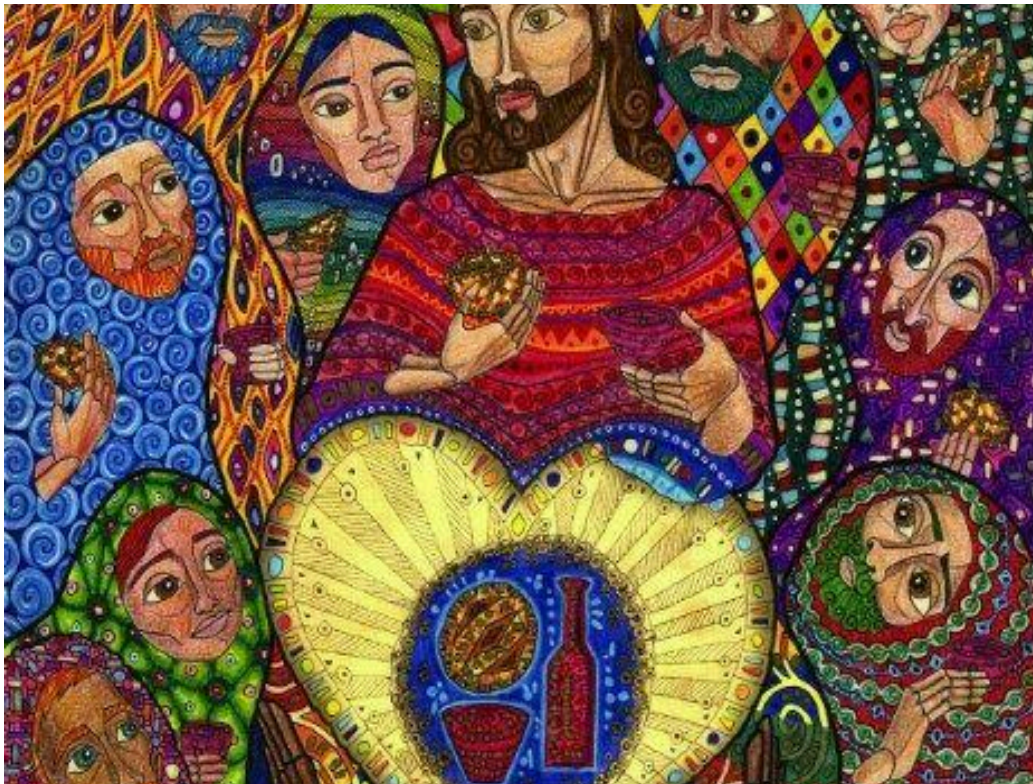




Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



**10:15 a.m.**  
**March 30, 2025**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

## 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. Jake Joseph, Preacher in Residence

The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Pastor

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Kim Feeney, Minister of Children & Families

Chancel Choir

Deacon: Celeste McGeehan

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 Life Flows On in Endless Song*

Benjamin M. Culli

- I. "Theme"
- II. "My life flows on in endless song"
- III. "Above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation."

### Welcome and Announcements

### Friendship Register

### Introit

*Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart*

Pashto hymn, arr. Weaver

### \*Call To Worship

One: We gather to worship together,

**All: Different people, different lives, different histories,**

**One:** Yet all children of the same Parent,

**All: We are all created lovingly by God.**

One: We come to give thanks for God's wondrous love, a love that bears our burdens and transforms our hearts.

**All: Different people, different lives, different histories, yet all called to live in peace, justice, and love.**

One: We gather as one people, with one God, let us open ourselves again to hope.

### \*Hymn

*Wondrous Love*

*223 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.*

# The Sacrament of Baptism

Lydia Helen Zadavec Lerner, daughter of Ashley Zadavec & Gabriel Lerner  
Godparents: Christi Malattera and Noah Lerner

We give you thanks, O Holy One, for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us the grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ. Give to Lydia Helen strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

**\*Hymn** *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* 325 *New Century Hymnal*

*The children may go with their friends and teachers to Disciple Road and Middle Road after the Baptism.*

**Candle of Witness** Ireland's Great Hunger Museum John Foley, President of IGHM

## GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

**Kyrie** *Mass of St. Augustine* Leon C. Roberts

1. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have  
2. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have  
3. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have  
mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy, have  
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have

1., 2. mer - cy. 3. mer - cy.

**Scripture**

Psalm 32:1-7; Luke 13:6-9

**Sermon**

*What Wondrous Love*

The Rev. Jake Joseph

**\*Hymn**

*Just As I Am*

207 *New Century Hymnal*

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

#### **Joys and Concerns**

Today's flowers are dedicated to the memory of Candace Seidel by John Seidel.

#### **Prayers of the People**

#### **Invitation to Offering**

#### **Offertory**

*Bow Down Low*

Shaker Song, arr. Bridge

Bow down low and bend your head.  
For I've come to sweep this house,  
For to sweep the Lord's house clean.  
Yes, I've come to wash and clean.

From this floor the stains of sin,  
For, lo I've come again,  
And I've not come in vain.

Sweep high, sweep low, sweep clean, as you go.  
Bow down low and bend your head,  
For to sweep the Lord's house clean.

#### **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 Can I Keep from Singing?*

476 *New Century Hymnal*

**\*Benediction and Response**

*Great Work Has God Begun in You*

Great work has God be - gun in you; take  
on God's love \_\_\_\_\_ in all you  
do, And may that love in you in - crease now,  
with God's bless - ing, go in peace. A - men.

The musical notation is written on four staves in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and half notes, with a final cadence on the fourth staff.

**Postlude**

*My Life Flows On in Endless Song*

Benjamin M. Culli

V. "Since Christ Is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?"

## Please Hold in Your Prayers

**Disciples at First Church:** We pray for Chris Bernd; Sandy Bromer; LaNeil Brown, Sr.; Dan Christianson; Betsy Dalling; Fernando Destrugue; 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; Diane Studwell Crawley; Brandon Deedon (Pertrinea Cash's son); Paul Douglas (Rita Skog's cousin); Lynelle Dupuis (sister of Bethany); Carter Faustini; Jackie Fenley; Kimberly Fetteri (friend of the Gindek family); Nate Gifford (Connie Sargent's cousin); Greenawalt and Darnall Families (Gindek family); Bill Fry (Penny Stevens' brother-in-law), Catherine Grover; Nancy Hamlin (sister of Charlotte Dyslin); 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); Scott Kimmel; Nancy King; Susan Labas (friend of Patty Bilotto); Verne Marble (Charlotte Dyslin's mother); John Mastropietro, Harry Lee, Lila (friend of Beth McKinnis); Dorothy Michalowski (friend of Connie and Bill Sargent); Mike Palmer, 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

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## Covenant to Care Easter Basket Signups

**Sundays, March 30 & April 6**

Please consider volunteering to make an Easter basket for a child in need to make their holiday special. Signups will take place after the 10:15 a.m. services on March 30 and April 6.

Baskets will be due for drop-off on April 13.

Questions may be directed to Marilyn Henry at 203-255-5296.

## Fellowship Hour Volunteers Needed

Our fellowship committee needs some extra hands on:



**Sundays  
May 4 & May 11**

Helping with fellowship hour is a great way to meet other church members and be of service. To signup or learn more email Cathy Kane at [ckfellowship.coffeehour@gmail.com](mailto:ckfellowship.coffeehour@gmail.com)

The Creation Care Pathway Presents:

## Sustainable Supper an Eco-Friendly Potluck



**Sunday, April 6 at 5 p.m.  
Wakeman Hall**

Featuring guest speakers Mary Hogue and Kiersten Chou of *Sustainable Fairfield*.

Play Earth Jeopardy to test your sustainability knowledge. Prizes, too! Share a delicious earth-friendly meal with the congregation.

Signups after services on Sundays, March 23 & 30th.  
Watch the *Weekly Word* for an online signups option.



### LENTEN ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

FIRST CHURCH OF FAIRFIELD

MARCH 5  
BABBITT

MARCH 19  
MARTIGNETTI

MARCH 26  
SYMONS

MARCH 12  
HAMAN

WEDNESDAYS  
12:15-12:45

APRIL 2  
SZABO



148 BEACH RD., FAIRFIELD, CONN.  
LIGHT LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW  
FREE WILL OFFERING

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