



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Temptation in the Wilderness, Briton Riviere

10:15 a.m.

March 9, 2025

First 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) 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

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Kim Feeney, Minister of Children & Families

Chancel Choir

Deacon: Heather Hodgeman

Ushers: Amy-Alison Ward & 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

A Lenten Suite

Charles Callahan

I. Solemn Prelude on "Heinlein"

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Register

Introit

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

African-American Spiritual

***Call To Worship**

Based on Psalm 91

One: We who live with faith in God proclaim:

**All: "Lord, You are my refuge and my fortress,
my God I will trust forever."**

One: We trust in the Lord, knowing that holy love surrounds us
Just as feathered wings shelter nestlings.

All: God's protection will follow us throughout our days.

One: When we call out to the Lord, we know that we are heard;
God is with us in every trial and temptation.

**All: Therefore we will rejoice in the salvation of the Almighty,
As we worship God together! Amen!**

***Hymn**

Forty Days and Forty Nights

205 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

Emerson Grace Shea, daughter of Rhoda Marie and Kyle Timothy Shea

Godparents: Amy Bellucci and Justin Shea

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 Emerson Grace 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.

The children may go with their friends and teachers to Disciple Road and Middle Road.

Candle of Witness

Susan Schnitzer, CEO & President of CIRI

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

Luke 4:1-13, Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

*Hymn

When We Are Tested

1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,

fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,

nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,

food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Joys and Concerns

The flowers this morning are given in loving memory by the Daniel Loh family.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

Spiritual, arr. Von Kampen

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

Be Not Dismayed (God Will Take Care of You) 460 *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.

Postlude

Andante in Bb

Louis-James Alfred Lefébure-Wély

Please Hold in Your Prayers

Please hold the family of The Rev. Kathy Williamson in your prayers following the passing of her sister, Joyce Wynn, last week. Please also continue to hold The Rev. Williamson's mother, Cleo Vernon, in your prayers. She remains hospitalized following her recent stroke. Please also hold our Sexton, David Robinson, in your prayers as he recovers at home following a recent injury. He will have surgery tomorrow, Monday March 10th.

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; 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; 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); Verne Marble (Charlotte Dyslin's mother); John Mastropietro, Harry Lee, Lila (friend of Beth McKinnis); Heather McNicholl (friend of Charlotte Dyslin), Dorothy Michalowski (friend of Connie and Bill Sargent); 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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Fellowship Hour

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

All are welcome!



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

FIRSTCHURCHFAIRFIELD.ORG/MUSIC

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.



The Racial Justice Committee of First Church Presents:

Kimberly Wilson in "A Journey"

Musical One-Woman Show
Saturday, March 22 at 7 p.m.

First Church of Fairfield

148 Beach Road

Tickets @ FirstChurchFairfield.org



SCAN ME