



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Christ's Entry into Jerusalem, John August Swanson

April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

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
The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Pastor
Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist
Kim Feeney, Minister of Children & Families
Matthews Jordao, livestream and sound
Chancel Choir; Ray Weber, percussion
The Fairfield Gaelic Pipe and Drum Band
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

The Liturgy of the Palms

We gather at 10 a.m. on the town green with our neighbors from St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Anthem

Ride On, King Jesus

African-American Spiritual

Opening Prayer

The Gospel

Mark 11:1-11

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessing of the Palms

One: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: Hosanna in the highest.

One: Let us go forth in peace.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Processional

The Fairfield Gaelic Pipe and Drum Band

We will process past St. Paul's and across the Old Post Road to our Sanctuary. We process in the following order: cross, choir, Fairfield Gaelic Pipe and Drum Band, clergy, and people. Please rise for the opening hymn when the organ begins the introduction.

***Hymn**

All Glory, Laud and Honor

216 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

Ella Magdalena Veikos, daughter of Mark and Emily Veikos

Godparents: Peter Veikos and Jessica McNabb

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 Ella Magdalena 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

Children may go with their friends and teachers to Disciple Road following the baptism.

GOD’S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

Scripture

Luke 19:28-40

Sermon

In the Company of Bagpipes

The Rev. Jake Joseph

***Hymn**

All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name

304 New Century Hymnal

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Joys and Concerns

Today’s flowers are given by the Rev. Kathy Williamson to the glory of God & in memory of her dear sister Joyce Wynn. Remembering her gentleness, thoughtfulness and love for her family. Forever in our hearts.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Make Way

Russell Nagy

Hosanna to the living Lord!
Come lay your palms before Him!
Hosanna to the Incarnate Word!
“Make way!” for God’s Messiah!
To Christ, Creator, Savior, King let earth,
let heav’n hosanna sing!
To Christ, Creator, Savior, King
Hosanna in the highest!

Hosanna, Lord! Thine angels cry,
Come lay your palms before Him!
Hosanna, Lord! Thy saints reply,
”Make way!” for Jesus Christ!
Above, beneath us, and around,
the dead and living swell the sound.
Above, beneath us, and around,
Hosanna in the highest!

O Savior, with protecting care;
Come lay your palms before Him!
Abide in this thy house of prayer.
“Make Way!” for God’s Messiah!
When we Thy parting promise claim,
assembled in Thy sacred Name,
When we Thy parting promise claim,
Hosanna in the highest!

Most Holy Spirit, come and dwell;
Come lay your palms before Him!
In hearts You’ve cleansed, Immanuel,
“Make way!” for Jesus Christ.
And may our innermost person be
a temple purified by Thee.
And hear us as we cry to Thee,
Hosanna in the highest.

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

Ride On! Ride On in Majesty

215 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 score 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. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with a long line under 'love' in the second line.

Postlude

Trumpet Tune on "Ellacombe"

Jon Spong

Please Hold in Your Prayers

Thank you to Matthews Jordao for his time on the Pastoral Team as our livestream technician on his last Sunday with us! Please join us in wishing him well in his future endeavors.

Disciples at First Church: We pray for Chris Bernd; Sandy Bromer; LaNeil Brown, Sr.; Dan Christianson; Betsy Dalling; Fernando Destrüge; 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 (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) Debra McLeod, 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.

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Please Join Us for
PALM SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, April 13

Immediately after 10:15 a.m. worship

We'll Be Celebrating with a special cake, coffee, tea and refreshments. All are welcome.



TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

HOLOCAUST

COMMEMORATION

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

7:30 PM

YOU ARE INVITED!
First Church of Fairfield's
EGG HUNT!

1000s OF EGGS! Ages 0-10!

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 20 @ 10:00AM



Holy Week & Easter Services

Palm Sunday - 10:00am

Maundy Thursday - 7:30pm

Good Friday - 12:00pm

Easter Sunday

Beach Service - 5:45am

Sanctuary - 9:00am & 11am

All are Welcome!