



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



*Christ Shows Himself to Thomas,, Mosaic at Washington National Cathedral*

**10:15 a.m.**

**April 27, 2025**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

## 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. Vanessa Rose, Pastor  
The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist  
Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist  
Ashley Zadravec, soprano soloist  
Kim Feeney, Minister of Children & Families  
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

*We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight*

arr. James Biery

### Welcome and Announcements

*Please sign and pass the welcome books, sharing contact information if you would like to receive church news.*

### \*Call To Worship

*When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week,  
and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear...*

*Jesus came and stood among them.*

**One:** We come to this sanctuary because there is no safety behind locked doors.

**All:** Jesus speaks peace among us.

**One:** We do not carry this all alone. We gather together to remember that fear can't keep love from showing up.

**All:** Jesus breathes the spirit among us. We do not carry this all alone.

**One:** Worship is a place where we address the wounds this world makes in us.

**All:** Jesus reaches out his hands to us. We do not carry this all alone.

**One:** We join our hearts in prayer and praise to practice moving disbelief toward recognition.

**All:** Jesus tells truths among us. We do not carry this all alone.

**One:** We do not need to stand to the side thinking, "unless I see for myself, I will not believe."

**All:** May we recognize Jesus here and declare: My Lord and my God! Alleluia.  
Alleluia. Alleluia!

**\*Hymn**

*Now the Green Blade Rises*

*23 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.*

**Children's Sermon**

**Candle of Witness**

Music in the Meetinghouse

Dr. Frank Martignetti

**GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED**

# Hymn of Praise

## *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!* (verse 2)



1. Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
 2. Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
 3. Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es;  
 4. Weep - ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent:  
 5. Cit - y of God, East - er for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
 Tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
 Life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
 Death put a - sun - der, and East - er is bright.  
 Gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for - ev - er!  
 Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us glo - ry:  
 Heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
 Riv - er of life, Saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
 Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
 Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Scripture

John 20:19-31, Acts 5:27-41

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

\*Hymn

*We Live By Faith and Not By Sight*

256 *New Century Hymnal*

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### Joys and Concerns

The flower's today were donated by Bob Brown to the Glory of God and in loving memory of my beloved wife Judy Brown.

#### Prayers of the People

#### Invitation to Offering

Offertory

*There Are Some Things I May Not Know (Yes, God Is Real)*

Kenneth Morris

#### Doxology

Let trumpets sound and voices sing!  
Let all on earth their praises bring!  
For Christ has conquered sin and death  
And given life eternal breath. Amen.  
– John H. Danner

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

Hymn

*The Day of Resurrection*

245 *New Century Hymnal*

#### \*Benediction and Response

*God Be With You*



Postlude

*Prelude and Fugue in C, BWV 553*

J. S. Bach

## Please Hold in Your Prayers

The friends and family of our member Gary Kopsco, who recently passed away suddenly. We will share an update on his memorial service here at First Church as soon as it is scheduled.

**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); Diane Studwell Crawley; Marie Damasco Delatorre; 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); Jeff Fischer (friend of Charlotte Dyslin), Nate Gifford (Connie Sargent's cousin); Greenawalt and Darnall Families (Gindek family); Bill Fry (Penny Stevens' brother-in-law), 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); Kate, Sean, Monica and K.B. (friends of Robin Griskus,) Scott Kimmel; Nancy King; Susan Labas (friend of Patty Bilotto); Verne Marble (Charlotte Dyslin's mother); Robert Mandarino, 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.

## Permissions

*We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight* arranged by James Biery © 2000, Augsburg Fortress. *Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!* text by Herbert F. Brokering. © 1995, Candela Music Press/Lorenz. Music. Tune by David N. Johnson, ©1969 Contemporary Worship I, admin. Augsburg Fortress. *Regal Peal on "Thine Is the Glory"* arr. Kurt Meyer © Grassy Meadow Music. .Livestreamed/reprinted with permission, OneLicense.net #A-731937.





An Afternoon of Jazz featuring the  
**The Chris Coogan Trio**



**Sunday, May 4 at 4 p.m.**  
**First Church of Fairfield**  
**148 Beach Road**

Enjoy jazz favorites performed by the talented Chris Coogan, piano;  
John Mobilio, bass; and Jim Royle, drums.

Tickets: \$30, \$20 for seniors and \$10 for students available at the door.

*Pray  
Together*



Join Senior Deacon Wendy Williams  
Brown in the Spollet Chapel for a  
time of prayer between the services.