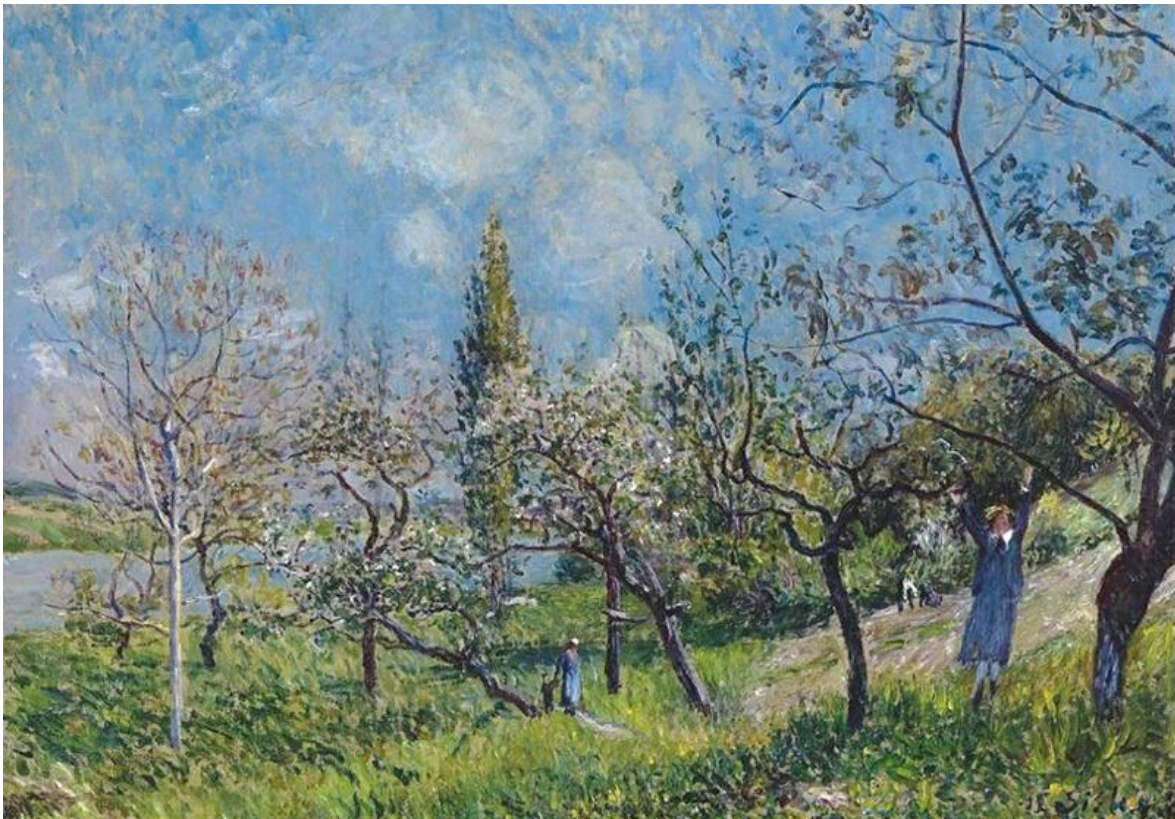




Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



*Orchard in Spring* , Alfred Sisley

**10:15 a.m.**  
**May 18, 2025**  
**Fifth 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. 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: Michele Nolan

Ushers: Rita Skog & Heather Hodgeman

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

*Trio on “Lasst Uns Erfreuen”*

J. William Greene

### Welcome and Announcements

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

### Introit

*Ps. 121: I Lift Up My Eyes to the Hills*

### \*Call To Worship

One: God, you know us—every word, every thought, every breath.

**All: And still, you invite us to begin again.**

One: We are wonderfully made, deeply known, and never alone.

**All: The future is unwritten, and yet you are with us in every new paragraph, sentence, and letter.**

One: Come, let us worship the One who holds our story with love.

### \*Hymn

*To You, O God, All Creatures Sing*  
*Verses 1-4*

*17 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 Sermon

### \*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.*

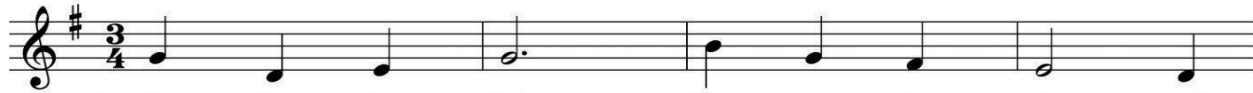
### Candle of Witness

Today’s offering will be given in support of the local chapter of the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI.)

## GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

### Hymn of Praise

*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! (verse 4)*



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

Psalm 139:1-18

Sermon

*Unwritten*

The Rev. Jake Joseph

\*Hymn

*For All the Children*

David Lohman

1. God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -  
2. Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be  
3. Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and  
4. God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and  
above, and we dare to claim the pro - mise of Your love.  
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,  
shame so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.  
wide, can live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.  
Though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will  
that they nev - er have a rea - son to doubt that they are  
May the mess - age now be ban - ished that Your love is for the  
As they grow in strength and sta - ture, may they join us hand in  
be, when your chil - dren will be free.  
blest. May they, in Your love, find rest.  
few, may their faith in You re - new.  
hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.  
O, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen  
wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry-one in - side.  
For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -  
long. May that wel - come be our song.

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Joys and Concerns

The flowers today were donated by Deb Gallagher to honor all the mothers in the congregation.

### Prayers of the People

### Invitation to Offering

### Offertory

*If Ye Love Me*

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments.  
And I will pray the Father,  
And He shall give you another comforter,  
That He may 'bide with you forever;  
E'en the sp'rit of truth.

### 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

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

388 *New Century Hymnal*

### \*Benediction and Response

*God Be With You*



### Postlude

*Trumpet Tune on "Lasst Uns Erfreuen"*

J. William Greene



### **Please Hold in Your Prayers**

**We pray for the family and friends of congregation member Doug Van Esselstyn, who passed away on May 14. Please support his children, Gretchen and David and their families in this time of bereavement. We will provide details of his memorial service as soon as they are available.**

**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; Kathy Verdier; Amy-Alison Ward, 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), Rozanne Gates, 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); 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**

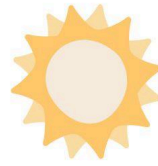
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## Calling All Church Bakers

We need volunteers to make treats for our  
Memorial Day Parade Party Bake Sale.  
Brownies, cookies and bars packed in "grab and go" bags that can  
be enjoyed along the parade route sell especially well,  
but if you bake it, we'll take it!  
If you can contribute, please drop off items in the Eunoia Kitchen on  
Sunday, May 25 or early on the morning of Monday, May 26.  
(Our parade party begins at 9 a.m.)

Questions? Call Cathy K. at 203-257-2276



SAVE THE DATE!  
CELEBRATION SUNDAY  
JUNE 1

Right after 10:15 a.m. worship

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!  
THE FIRE ENGINE PIZZA TRUCK



Est. 1639

*Join us for our*  
**All-Church Meeting**  
**Sunday, June 1**

**Following the 10:15 a.m. service**  
**We'll be conducting important church business**  
**including electing a new slate of officers.**

**The Celebration Sunday picnic will follow the meeting.**