



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



The Great Catch, John August Swanson

10:15 a.m.

May 4, 2025

**Third Sunday of Easter
Confirmation 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

Our Confirmands: Tenley Parson Simmons Pavlofsky,
Olivia Annabelle Katie Saint, and Evan Alexander Sulzycki

The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Pastor
The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist
Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist
Kim Feeney, Minister of Children & Families
Chancel Choir
Deacon: Heather Hodgeman
Ushers: Candace Meader & Cheryl Camarato

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

Blessed Assurance

arr. J. Bert Carlson

Welcome and Announcements

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

Introit

You are Holy

Per Harling

***Call to Worship**

Based on Psalm 30

One: Sing praises to our Lord: who heals us and makes us whole.

All: Sing praises to our Lord, faithful children of God:

whose joy rises in our lives each and every day.

One: Sing praises to our Lord, faithful children of God; give thanks to God's holy name:

All: God's Kingdom is near to us; God's peace resides in our hearts.

Let us worship God together!

***Hymn**

Blessed Assurance

473 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 RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Tenley Parson Simmons Pavlofsky
Olivia Annabelle Katie Saint
Evan Alexander Sulzycki

Greeting

Address to Each Confirmand by their Parents

Affirmation of Baptismal Vows

***Laying on of Hands**

Please reach your hand forward to the shoulder of the person in front of you so we will all be connected as we ask God's blessing on our newest members of the church.

***Unison Congregational Prayer**

Almighty and Everliving God, may your hand ever be over your servants Tenley, Olivia, and Evan, confirmed today. May your Holy Spirit ever be with them. So lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word that they may serve you in this life and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ. Amen

***Owning the Covenant**

Please turn to the back cover of the Pilgrim Hymnal for the words of our Covenant.

***Response of the Congregation**

The Members of First Church will offer this welcome to the Confirmands, also in the back cover of the Pilgrim Hymnal.

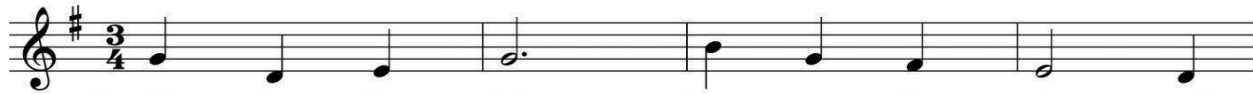
Sending

Please stay to greet the Confirmands at fellowship hour following this service of worship, where you will also be able to appreciate their creative projects, on display in the Webb Room.

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

Hymn of Praise

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! (verse 3)



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

Genesis 32:24-31
John 20:15-18
Philippians 3:12-4:1

Statements of Faith

Tenley Pavlofsky, Olivia Saint, and Evan Sulzycki

*Hymn

Called As Partners In Christ's Service

495 *New Century Hymnal*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Joys and Concerns

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of our Confirmands and their families.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

The loose plate offering today will go to the work of the Deacon's Emergency Assistance Fund. Thank you for giving generously to support our neighbors in times of need.

Offertory

Today the Lord Has Risen

John Helgen

Today the Lord is risen, Alleluia!
Set free from Satan's prison,
Alleluia!
Our voices praise a shout of
praise,
For now is Christ risen, Alleluia!

All Christians on this glorious day,
Make haste with joy your vows to
pay;
The Lord is ris'n, today we cry,
For now he lives, no more to die!

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

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Communion Hymn

Festival Canticle

Richard Hillert

Please join in the refrain.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-
lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. lu - ia.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have renewed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith in you, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ. Amen

Hymn

Jesus Shall Reign

300 New Century Hymnal

*Benediction and Response

God Be With You

God be with you till we meet a-gain; by good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,
With a shep-herd's care en-fold you; God be with you till we meet a-gain. A - men.

Postlude

Duke Street

arr. Wilbur He

Please Hold in Your Prayers

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.

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Join us on May 11 for Creation Care Sunday

Outdoor Worship Service at Fairfield Audubon:

8: 15 a.m., 2325 Burr Street, Fairfield

Please bring blankets and/or chairs

First Church Creation Care Service: 10:15 a.m.

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dean Lindsey



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.