



*Icon with the Ascension of Christ, Oxford University*



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming  
Congregation  
of the  
United Church of Christ

10:15 a.m.  
June 1, 2025

Feast of the Ascension

## 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

Kim Feeney, Minister of Children & Families

Bell, Chancel, and Children's Choirs

Bethany Dupuis, Children's Music Leader

Deacons: Celeste McGeehan, Rita Skog & 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

*Children are invited to gather in the sanctuary to hear the Children's Choir sing the Introit. They will then go to Disciple Road for the last class of the program year. They will return with their teachers for Communion.*

**Prelude** *Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise* arr. Michael Bedford

**Introit** *When In Our Music God Is Glorified* C. V. Stanford, arr. Patterson

### **Welcome and Announcements**

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

**\*Call To Worship** from Psalm 47

One: Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**All: For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth.**

One: God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**All: Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

One: For God is the king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a psalm.

**All: God is king over the nations;  
God sits on his holy throne.**

**\*Hymn** *Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!* 257 *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.*

Candle of Witness

Two Houses One Home

## GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

Hymn of Praise

Regal Peal on "Thine Is the Glory"

Kurt Meyer

Scripture

Luke 24:44-53, Ephesians 1:11-23

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\*Hymn

*You are Holy*

Per Harling

①

You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways  
E - res san - to, e - res Dios por to - da la e -

ev - er more than we ev - er un - der - stand.  
ter - ni - dad: siem - pre tú muy cer - ca es - tás

You are al - ways at hand. Bless - ed  
de tu pue - blo, buen Se - ñor. Te a - la -

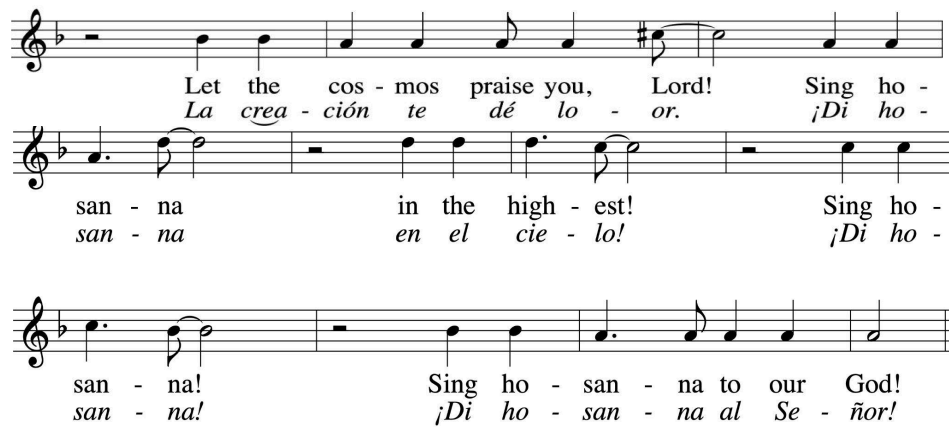
are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here  
ba - mos hoy a - quí, te a - do - ra - mos con fer - vor.

to your church in wine and bread, raised from  
A tu i - gle - sia en vi - no y pan nue - va

②

soil, raised from dead. You are ho - ly,  
vi - da a - sí le das. E - res san - to,

you are whole - ness; you are pres - ent.  
e - res Dios. Te sen - ti - mos.



## Joys and Concerns

## Prayers of the People

## Invitation to Offering

## Offertory

*I Will Not Leave You Comfortless*

Carlton Young

I will not leave you comfortless,  
 I will come to you yet again;  
 And your heart shall rejoice.  
 Alleluia!

Yet a little while  
 and the world shall see me no more,  
 But you shall see me,  
 Because I live, you also shall live.

I will not leave you comfortless,  
 I will come to you yet again;  
 And your heart shall rejoice.  
 Rejoice!

I will not leave you comfortless.  
 —John 14:18-19, adapted  
 Carlton Young

## 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 Anthem

*O Lord Most Holy*

Jay Althouse

O Lord most holy, Lord God almighty,  
help us to serve Thee, show us Thy way.  
Make us more worthy, Lord, in all we do and  
say.  
Guide us and lead us every day.

O Lord most holy, Lord God almighty,  
help us to serve Thee, show us Thy way.

Be thou a vision, Lord, a beacon in the night.  
Help us to see your guiding light.

O Lord most holy, Lord God almighty,  
help us to serve Thee, show us Thy way.  
Show us Thy way.

## 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

*Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise*

*260 New Century Hymnal*

*We will sing verses one, two, five and six.*

## \*Benediction and Response

*God Be With You*



## Postlude

*O Filii et Filiae*

arr. Michael Bedford

### **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; 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), Larry Gaddy (Connie Sargent's cousin), 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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**Please join us today immediately following this service for our All-Church Meeting to be followed by our Celebration Sunday picnic featuring the Fire Engine Pizza Truck .**

# VACATION Bible SCHOOL

Register **by June 5**  
[firstchurchfairfield.org](http://firstchurchfairfield.org)

*For more information email Kim Feeney at  
[kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org](mailto:kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org)*

**JUNE 16 - 20 • 9am to 12pm •**

## Interfaith Book Group



**Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 4**

**@ First Church**

**Potluck Dinner at 6 p.m.**

**Book Discussion at 7 p.m.**

*For more information Email David McKinnis at  
[david@bethanddavid.org](mailto:david@bethanddavid.org)*



*Come celebrate Pentecost with us at First Baptist Church of Stratford during our*

**Two Houses, One Home service.**

**Sunday, June 8 at 10:30 a.m.**

**First Baptist Church of Stratford**

**1301 Stratford Avenue**

**The Rev. Vanessa Rose will preach during this service  
shared by our two congregations.**

*Please Note: There will be no 8:15 or 10:15 a.m. worship at First Church on June 8.*