



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Lamb of God,, Mural at Basilica of Cosmas and Damien, Rome

January 18, 2025

Second Sunday After Epiphany

10:15 AM

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 our Minister of Children and Families 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. Vanessa Rose, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Kim Feeney, Minister of Children and Families

Chancel Choir

Deacons: Rita Skog & 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

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
II. Trumpet Tune

arr. Jeffrey Blersch

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Now Behold the Lamb

Kirk Franklin

***Call to Worship based on Psalm 40:1-11**

One: O God, you called us by name to come,
and we respond with delight and gladness

**All: In joyful obedience,
we come to worship our God.**

One: Rising out of the depths of despair,
we gratefully gather for worship.

**All: In joyful hope,
we come to worship our loving God.**

One: Our God had given us a new song
of praise to sing to our Awesome God!

**All: In joyful trust,
we come to worship our God. Amen.**

***Hymn**

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

276 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.

Children may go with their friends and teachers to their Disciple Road and Middle Road workshops.

Candle of Witness

In Celebration of our Anniversary of Becoming Open and Affirming

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

***Hymn of Praise**

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.

Scripture

John 1:29-42

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

***Hymn**

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

290 *New Century Hymnal*

Joys and Concerns

Today's flowers are donated by Beth Fitzpatrick and dedicated to the memory of her late godparents and beloved aunt and uncle, Jean and Richard Fredette.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering Today's loose plate donations supports Westbridge, Inc. a local nonprofit which supports homeowners in financial need by offering low-cost renovations which allow them to stay safely and comfortably in their homes.

Offertory

The Summons

John Bell, arr. Trenney

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown?
Will you let my Name be known?
Will you let my life be grown in you
and you in me?

Will you leave your self behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you
and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoner free

and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen?
And admit to what I mean in you
and you in me?

Will you love the 'You' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch
and sound in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show,
thus I'll grow in you and you in me?

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below
Praise God, for whom all that love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn**

Lead On, O King Eternal

573 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

Lancashire

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS

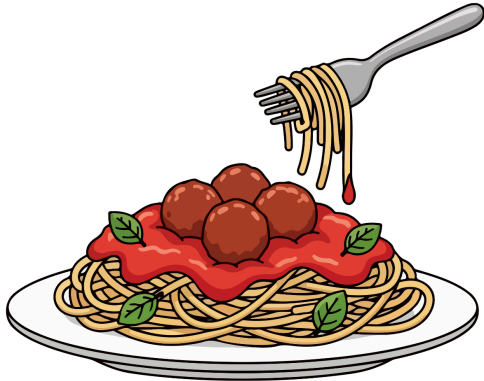
Congregants: Sandy Bromer, LaNeil Brown, Sr.; Pertrinea Cash; Cheryl Camarota; Dan Christianson; Betsy Dalling; Fernando Destrugé; Gloria Evans; Charlotte Jefremow; Christy Jefremow; Nancy Jones and family; Cathy Kane, her brother Scott and great niece Amelia; Adelaide Kitchen; Jerry Krenke; Elizabeth Saint; Penny Stevens; Andrea Wakeman; Elinor Wilber; Edith Zambo; and all those living with memory loss and Alzheimer's disease and we pray for their caregivers.

Family and Friends: Ed Allen (friend of Patty Bilotto); Alison Babycos (friend of Kim Henry); Hal Burdick (Friend of David McKinnis); Bob Buyiteck (friend of Bill Sargent); Tracy Bloom (sister of Michael Traum); Art Christiani (friend of Bill Sargeant); Janet L. Cooney (mother of Beth Fitzpatrick); Diane Studwell Crawley; Janet Cooney (mother of Beth Fitzpatrick); Donna, her husband and daughter (friends of David McKinnis), Brandon Deedon (Pertrinea Cash's son); Lynelle Dupuis (sister of Bethany); Mary Lou Earnshaw, (sister of Nancy Weber); Janet Faller (sister-in-law to Michael Traum); Carter Faustini; Kimberly Fetteri (friend of the Gindek family); Jeff Fischer (friend of Charlotte Dyslin); Marianne and Larry Gaddy (Connie Sargent's cousins); The Grover Family; 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); Jimi Han (friend of the Choir); Yochai Harel; Melanie Rainbow-Harel and family (friends of Michelle Walker); Christina Holms (Connie and Bill Sargent's niece); K.B. (friend of Robin Griskus); William Kennedy (friend of David McKinnis); Scott Kimmel; 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); Jean Rita Powers, 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 Scaia (Pat Bilotto's cousin); Marcia Stein (friend of Nancy Weber); David Skog (son of Rita Skog); Cleo Vernon (the Rev. Kathy Williamson's mother); Dr. Abraham Yale; and Marshall (friend of Jon Skog.)

Permissions

When Jesus Came to Jordan text by Fred Pratt Green. © 1980, Hope Publishing Company. *Born Cry* © 1985 John Ylvisaker. Arrangement by Phil Kadidlo, © Augsburg Fortress. *Crashing Waters At Creation* text by Sylvia Dunstan © 1991, GIA Publications, Inc. *Fanfare Postlude on "Stuttgart"* by Douglas Wagner. Tune: © 2023 Lorenz Corporation (admin. by Music Services) All Rights Reserved. All Rights Reserved. Livestreamed/reprinted with permission, OneLicense.net #A-731937. Call to Worship: © 2011 Joan Stott – 'The Timeless Psalms' RCL Psalms Year A. Used with permission. The call to worship was written by Rev. Rosemary McCombs Maxey in Seeking Higher Ground, Service Prayers for Baptism of Christ Sunday. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website. It was adapted by Rev. Rose for First Church, and is used with permission.

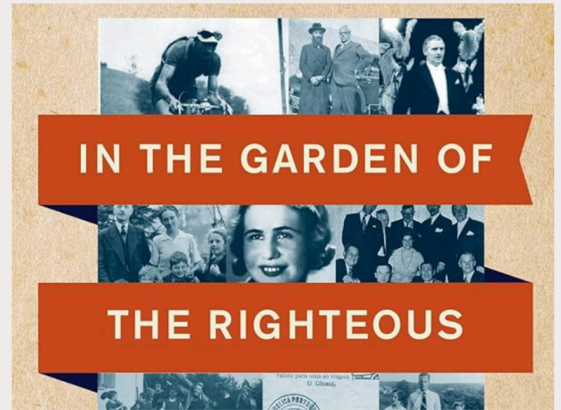
**15th Annual First Church
Pasta Dinner**



**Sunday, February 1
5 to 7 p.m., Wakeman Hall**



Author Richard Hurowitz
in conversation with
The Rev. Vanessa Rose



**Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.
The Westport Library**

Rsvp at westportlibrary.org or see the Weekly Word.



**Fellowship Hour
Volunteers Needed
Sundays after the
10:15 a.m. service.**

*To learn more email Cathy Kane at
ckfellowship.coffeehour@gmail.com*