



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Joyful Mountain Landscape, Paul Klee

February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent
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

Kim Feeney, Minister of Children and Families

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Chancel Choir

Deacons: Michelle Nolan & 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

A Lenten Suite

Charles Callahan

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

In Adam We Have All Been One

W. Walker

***Call to Worship**

One: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

**All: We rejoice in our God, who made a way
through the desert of this world.**

One: Let us worship God,
who has caused streams of mercy
to flow in the wasteland.

**All: We are the people God has formed through Christ;
we follow Him, and we rejoice!**

One: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**All: We praise God for the grace that has saved us.
We rejoice as we worship God together!**

***Hymn**

Forty Days and Forty Nights

205 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 Disciple Road and Middle Road.

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

Kyrie

Mass of St. Augustine

Leon C. Roberts

1. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have
2. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have
3. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have
mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have

1., 2. mer - cy. 3. mer - cy.

Scripture

Genesis 2:15-17; 3: 1-7
Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon

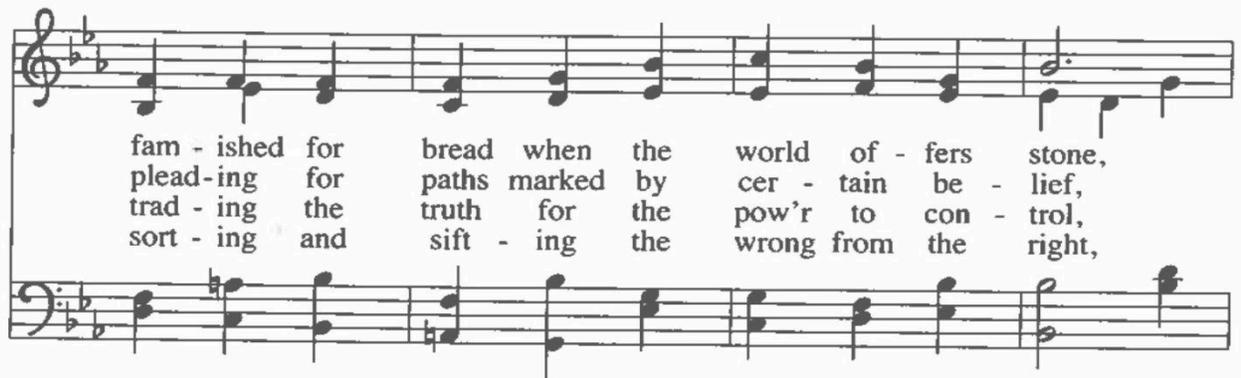
The Rev. Vanessa Rose

*Hymn

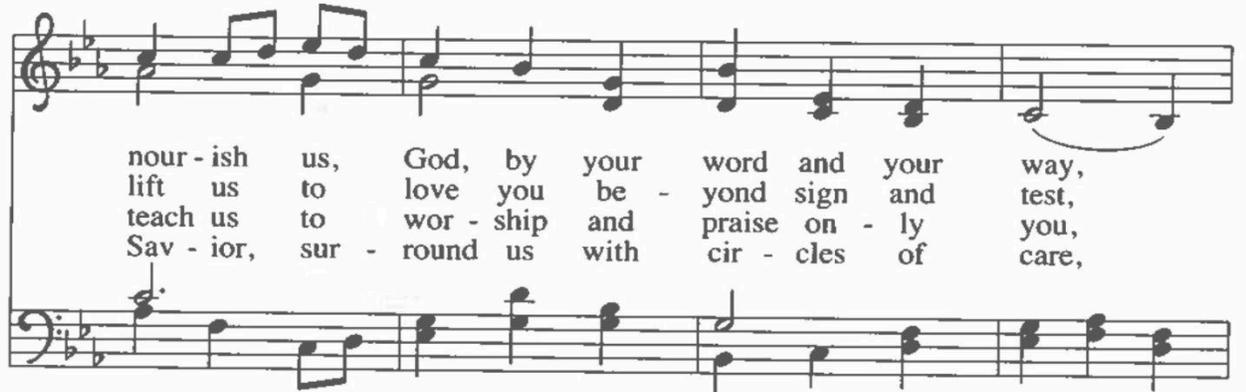
When We Are Tested



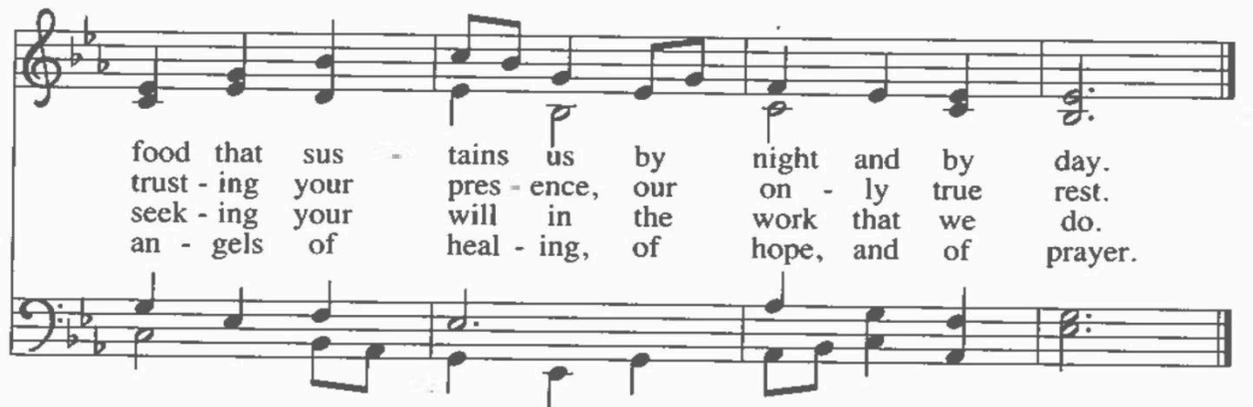
1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Joys and Concerns

This morning's flowers are given by John and Suzanne Herlihy in loving memory of our parents, Jack and Mary Herlihy and Don and Bette Cornish.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

City Called Heaven

arr. Josephine Poelinitz

I am a pilgrim, a pilgrim of sorrow
I'm left in this wide world, this wide world alone
Ain't got no hope, got no hope for tomorrow
Trying to make it, make heaven my home

Sometimes I'm tossed and I'm driven, Lord
Sometimes I just don't know which way to go.
Heard of a city, a city called heaven
Trying to make it, make heaven my home.

*Doxology

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn

A Mighty Fortress

439 *New Century Hymnal*

*Benediction and Response

Great Work Has Begun in You

Great work has God be - gun in you; take
on God's love _____ in all you
do, And may that love in you in - crease now,
with God's bless - ing, go in peace. A - men.

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS

Congregants: LaNeil Brown, Sr.; Pertrinea Cash; Cheryl Camarota; 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; 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); Diane Studwell Crawley; 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); Michael Kelly; Scott Kimmel; John Mastropietro; 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); Nasir Reid (friend of Rita Skog); 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); Sandy Suarez, Cleo Vernon (the Rev. Kathy Williamson's mother); Dr. Abraham Yale; and Marshall (friend of Jon Skog.)

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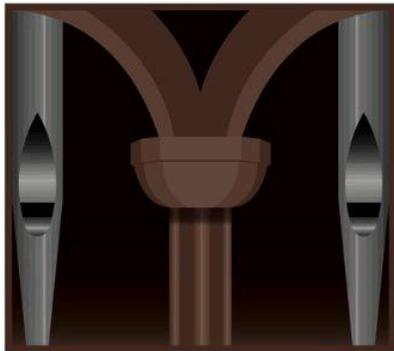
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All-Church Finance Meeting Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

First Church Sanctuary

Cookies and coffee before the meeting, 7 p.m. in Wakeman Hall

All congregatation members are invited and encouraged to engage in our annual budget deliberation process.



MUSIC
— in the —
MEETINGHOUSE

Annual Lenten Recital Series

*Five Weeks, Five Talented Musicians
Performing on our Renowned Klais Organ*

Wednesdays from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Feb. 25 through March 25

First Church Sanctuary

Join us after the concert for lunch!

Concert admission is free, donations greatly appreciated