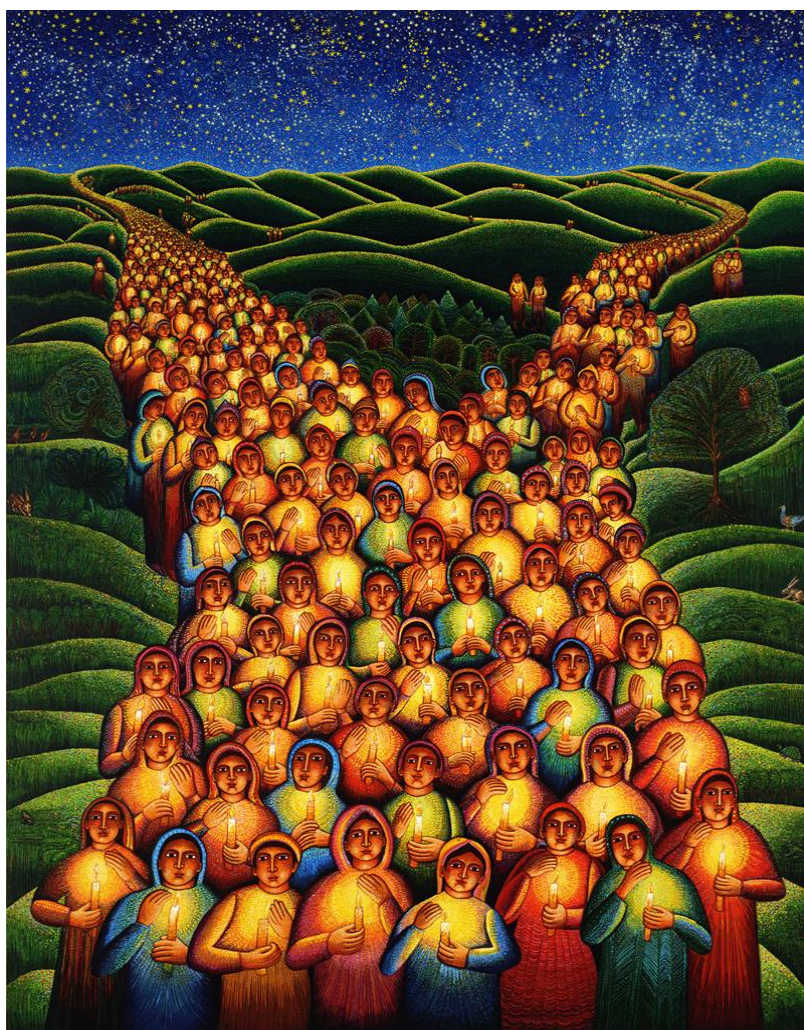




Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Festival of Lights, John August Swanson

February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday After the 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

Kim Feeney, Minister of Children and Families

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Chancel Choir

Deacon: Tom Croarkin

Usher: Amy-Alison Ward

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

Christ, Be Our Light Bernadette Farrell, arr. Schmoltze

Welcome and Announcements

A Greeting from our Scout Troops 82 and 182

Introit

Siyahamba

South African Freedom Song

***Call to Worship**

One: We are called to bring a new understanding of God: that God so loves the world.

All: We are the salt of the earth.

One: We are called to bring a new hope in God: that God gives us new life.

All: We are the light of the world.

One: We are called to follow the commandments and the law.

**All: The Law of God is to love God
and to love one another.**

One: Come, let us be the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

**All: Come, let us love one another with the love of God.
Let us join together in our love of God
to worship and follow Jesus.**

***Hymn**

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

42 *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 Sacrament of Baptism

Lucas Alan Fuehring, son of Emily and Alan Fuehring

Baptism Prayer

We give you thanks, O Holy One, for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us the grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ. Give to Lucas strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

Hymn

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

325 *New Century Hymnal*

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

Candle of Witness

Blessing Box

Kim Henry

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

Isaiah 58:1-12, Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

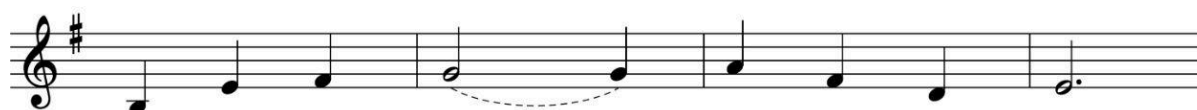
*Hymn

Christ, Be Our Light

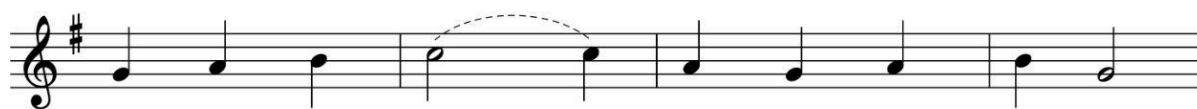
Bernadette Farrell



1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness.
2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled.
3. Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry.
4. Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less.
5. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple,



Long - ing for truth, we turn to you.
Long - ing for hope, man - y de - spair.
Long - ing for wa - ter, man - y still thirst.
Long - ing for warmth, man - y are cold.
Man - y the hearts that yearn to be - long.



Make us your own, your ho - ly peo - ple,
Your word a - lone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your bread, bro - ken for oth - ers,
Make us your build - ing, shel - ter - ing oth - ers,
Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er,



Light for the world to see.
Make us your liv - ing voice.
Shared un - til all are fed.
Walls made of liv - ing stone.
Mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.



Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!



Shine in your Church gath - ered to - day.

Joys and Concerns

Today's flowers are donated by Connie and Bill Sargent in loving memory of their parents, Ann and Howard Avery and Kay and Bill Sargent.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Rise! Shine!

Spiritual, arr. Garrett and Trenney

*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

Guide My Feet

497 *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

Toccata in E Minor

Johann Pachelbel

Permissions

Christ, Be Our Light © 1993, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Organ arrangement by Ron Schmolze, © 2008, Augsburg Fortress. *Eye Has Not Seen* by Marty Haugen © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc. *Rise! Shine!* Arr. Marques Garrett and Tom Trenney © 2021 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers. Livestreamed/reprinted with permission, OneLicense.net #A-731937. The Call to Worship is inspired by Matthew 5:13-20, Mark 12:30-31, Matthew 22:36-40, and Luke 10:27. It was written by Rev Mindi, and posted on **Rev-o-lution**. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS

We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Beth Fitzpatrick, our Congregational Life Coordinator, on the death of her mother, Janet L. Cooney, on Friday, Jan. 30, in Massachusetts.

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 Babykos (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); 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).



Elaine Pagels, PhD

"In God We Trust: Faith in America 1776-2026"

7:30 p.m., February 17

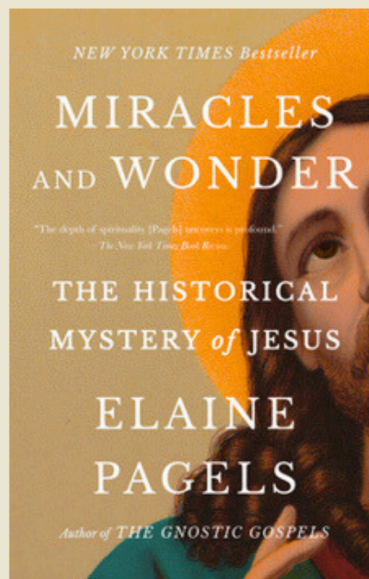
The Dolan School of Business

Fairfield University

Featuring guest panelist The Rev. David W. Spollett,
First Church Pastor Emeritus

See the Weekly Word and Herald for registration information.
Use the code FAITHUSA for a First Church discount

Exploring *Miracles and Wonder*



A conversation with
The Rev. David W. Spollett, Pastor Emeritus
Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m.
The Eunoia Room