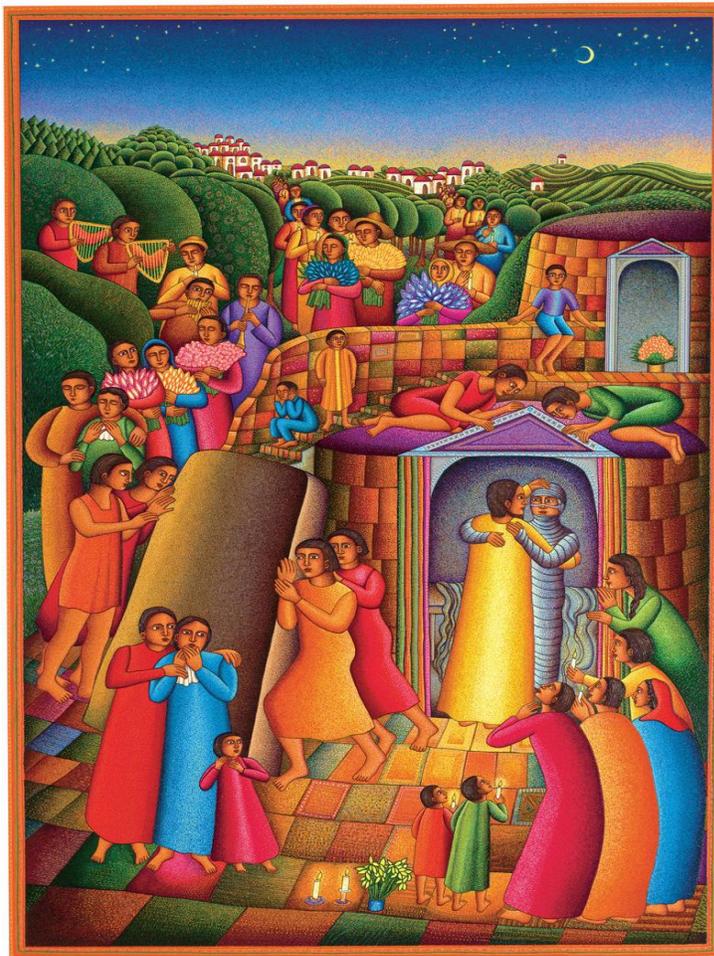




Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



*Take Away the Stone, John August Swantson*

**March 22, 2026**  
**Fifth 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](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. Jake Joseph, Preacher in Residence  
The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Senior Pastor  
Kim Feeney, Minister of Children and Families  
Dr. Markus Rathey, Guest Organist  
Chancel Choir

**Deacons:** Celeste McGeehan & Nathan Mughal

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

### Welcome and Announcements

### Introit

*When Jesus Wept*

William Billings

### Call to Worship

One: Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord. The world is full of questions: questions about justice, peace, and hope.

**All: Yet God's Spirit still moves like the wind. Unstoppable. Powerful. Real.**

One: Breath enters what seemed lifeless. Hope rises where despair once lived.

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, breathe life into us.**

One: Let us worship the God whose Spirit still moves among us and through us.

**All: Let us worship God—breath, wind, Spirit, keeper of life.**

### \*Hymn

*What Wondrous Love*

223 *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.*

*The children are invited to go to Disciple Road and Middle Road with their friends and workshop leaders.*

**GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED**

**Scripture Readings**

Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130

**\*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.

**Gospel Reading**

John 11: 17-45

**Sermon**

*Blowing in the Wind*

The Rev. Jake Joseph

**\*Hymn**

*Breathe on me, Breath of God*

292 *New Century Hymnal*

**Joys and Concerns**

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Terry "Poppy" Rees by the McKinnis Family.

**Prayers of the People**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory***Psalm 130*

Paul Manz

Out of the depths have I cried unto  
Thee, O Lord.  
Lord, hear my voice:  
Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice  
of my supplication.

If Thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities,  
Lord, who shall stand? But there is for  
givenness with Thee that Thou mayest be  
feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait,

And in His word do I hope; My soul  
waiteth for the Lord more than they  
watch for the morning.

Let Israel hope in the Lord, for with the  
Lord there is mercy, redemption.

And He shall redeem Israel from all his  
iniquities.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And the Holy Ghost; As it was in the  
beginning; is now; and ever shall be,  
World without end Amen

**\*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***O Come to Me, You Weary**484 New Century Hymnal*

**\*Benediction and Response**     *Great Work Has Begun in You*

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

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in the key of D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. It consists of four lines of music. The first line contains the first six measures, the second line contains measures 5 through 7, the third line contains measures 8 through 12, and the fourth line contains measures 13 through 16. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes. Measure 13 ends with a double bar line.

**Postlude**

### 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 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); Henry (friend of Laura Ghidek); 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.)

### Permissions

Ps. 130 by Paul Manz © \_\_\_\_\_? "Kyrie" from *Mass of St. Augustine* by Leon C. Roberts. © 1981, GIA Publications, Inc. *Great Work Has God Begun in You*, text by Carol Birkland. © 1993, Selah Publishing. Livestreamed/reprinted with permission, OneLicense.net #A-731937.

## Final 2026 Event



### Annual Lenten Organ Recital Series

Wednesday, March 25 at 12:15 p.m.  
Featuring Musical Guest Michelle Horsley  
*Come for the Music and Stay for Lunch!*



### Holy Week Events & Services

**Palm Sunday:** 10:00 a.m. Town Green bagpipe procession

**Maundy Thursday:** 6 p.m. , Wakeman Hall dining room

**Good Friday:** 12 p.m., sanctuary

**Easter Sunrise Service:** 6:15 a.m., Jennings Beach

**Easter Worship:** 9 & 11 a.m., sanctuary

**Disciple Road Egg Hunt:** 10:15 a.m., church lawn

## Covenant to Care Annual Easter Basket Drive



Signup on Sundays, March 15 & 22  
Basket Dropoffs: By Sunday, March 29

*See the Weekly Word for more details*

## Easter Flower Donations



You are invited to help us fill the sanctuary with tulips and daffodils on Easter Sunday!

The flowers are \$20 per flower pot. If you would like this gift to be in memory or in honor of someone we will include their names in our Easter bulletin.

Please find the link to donate on our website and send your name requests to [office@firstchurchfairfield.org](mailto:office@firstchurchfairfield.org) by March 29