



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



*Hallelujah, Mike Moyers*

**March 29, 2026**  
**Palm Sunday**  
**10:00 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. Vanessa Rose, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist

Kim Feeney, Minister of Children and Families

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Bethany Dupuis, Children's Music Leader

Members of the Fairfield Gaelic Pipe and Drum Band

Amy Griswold, violinist

Children's Choir & 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.

## THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

*We gather at 10 a.m. on the town green with our neighbors from St. Paul's Episcopal Church.*

**Introit** *Ride On, King Jesus* African-American Spiritual

### Opening Prayer

**The Gospel** Matthew 21:1-11

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### Blessing of the Palms

One: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**All: Hosanna in the highest.**

One: Let us go forth in peace.

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen.**

### Processional

*The Fairfield Gaelic Pipe and Drum Band*

*We process past St. Paul's and across the Old Post Road to our Sanctuary in the following order:  
cross, choir, Fairfield Gaelic Pipe and Drum Band, clergy, and people.*

**\*Hymn** *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* 216 *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 Choir** *Shout Hosanna!* Vicki Hancock Wright

## **\*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.*

## **GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED**

### **Scripture Readings**

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Philippians 2:5-11

### **Sermon**

The Rev. Vanessa Rose

### **\*Hymn**

*Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!*

215 *New Century Hymnal*

## **Joys and Concerns**

*Today's flowers are given by Sharon Cloutier and "dedicated to my loving family who are always my source of joy and blessings."*

## **Prayers of the People**

### **Invitation to Offering**

### **Offertory**

*A Hosanna for Our Time*

Karen Marroli

When the world cries for power,  
will our souls cry for peace?  
Does the kingdom we're seeking  
comfort with refuge and release?

Does the realm of our longing  
reign with riches or welcome with grace?  
What kingdom shall we choose?

Hosanna, sing hosanna!  
Behold the King of Peace,  
Riding lowly among us,  
conqu'ring the reign of fear!

Hosanna, sing hosanna!  
Behold the King of Love!  
Now the light of justice  
shatters the bow and spear! Hosanna!

Will our souls cry for healing  
while the world cries for war?  
Does the kingdom we're seeking  
rule with a peace that shall endure?  
Does the realm of our longing  
boast of power or soothe with love?  
What kingdom shall we choose?

Will we choose to rage with strength and strife?  
Will we choose to heal with words of life?  
Will we bow to riches and might?  
Will we reach for the crown of light?

Let the stones cry out in songs of praise  
as we turn from earthly power to walk in humbler  
ways!

— Karen Marroli,  
based on Zechariah 9:9-12 and Luke 19:28-4

**\*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**

*Lift High the Cross*

198 *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.

**Postlude**

*Processional on "Crucifier"*

Donald Busarow

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**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); Henry (friend of Laura Gnidek); 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.)



## **Holy Week Services & Events**

**Maundy Thursday Dinner Church:**

**6:30 p.m., Wakeman Hall**

*Please see the Weekly Word for signups*

**Good Friday Service: 12 p.m.**

**in the church sanctuary**

**Easter Sunday:**

**6:15 a.m., sunrise worship at Jennings Beach**

**9 & 11 a.m., church sanctuary**



**Disciple Road Easter Egg Hunt:**

**10:15 a.m., church front lawn**

# Palm Sunday Fellowship



**Please join us for fellowship  
immediately following this  
morning's service.**

**We'll be enjoying coffee,  
sandwiches, assorted treats and a  
special cake.**

**All are welcome!**