



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Sower at Sunset, Vincent Van Gogh

July 12, 2026
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost
10:15 a.m.

Welcome to our guests! Thank you for being here. It is such a joy to worship with you. We are here in Wakeman Hall for two weeks while we refinish the floors in our air conditioned sanctuary. 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). During the program year, First Church offers child care (for ages 3 months to 3 years) with professional nursery staff on Sundays @ 9:45am-11:45am. In the summer, the nursery is available for parents and children to use. Our Sunday School and children's choir are currently on summer break. 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 which extend from age four and up.

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. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist
Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist
David McFadden, bass
Jermaine Charles, Audio & Video
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

Prelude No. 2

George Gershwin

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Inspired by Psalm 19

One: The law of God is perfect, refreshing the soul

All: We will follow God's way

One: The statutes of God are trustworthy, making wise the simple

All: We will follow God's way

One: The precepts of God are right

All: Peace of God give joy to the heart

One: The commands of God are radiant

All: Giving light to the eyes

One: The decrees of God are firm and all of them are righteous

All: They are more precious than gold, they are sweeter than honey.

One: By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward

All: Dear God, we will follow your way.

***Hymn**

Come, All You People

(see back pages of this bulletin)

***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.

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

Scripture Reading

Psalm 119:105-112

***Hymn of Praise**

Halle, Halle, Halle

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sermon

The Rev. Kathy Williamson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S HOLY WORD

***Hymn**

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast (see back pages of this bulletin)

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

Johann Schultz

We plow the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand,
who sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.

You only are the maker
of all things near and far.
You paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star.

The wind and waves obey you,
by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give our daily bread.

We thank you, our creator,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all your love imparts
but what you most would treasure --
our humble, thankful hearts.

***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

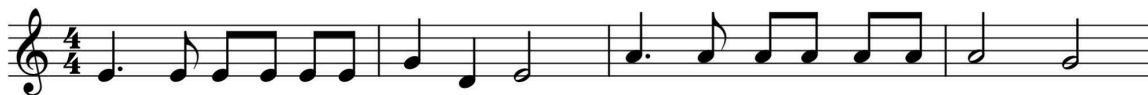
***Hymn**

Be Now My Vision

(see back pages of this bulletin)

***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

Slane

arr. Timothy Shaw

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS

We celebrate and give thanks for the recent birth of James Christopher Muschett, the son of Christopher and Emilia Muschett and the first grandchild of Wendy and Jim Muschett. Christopher is home from his military deployment and the whole Muschett family was present to celebrate James' arrival. We pray for the family and friends of Barbara Bowman Boston, who passed away on June 26 at 84. Barbara was a devoted First Church member, who once served for several years as our Director of Christian Education. Her memorial service will be held here tomorrow at noon.

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; The Rev. David Spollett; Penny Stevens; Andrea Wakeman; Elinor Wilber. 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 Sargent); 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); Lori Gandini: 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 Gndeck); 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); Diane Marble (sister-in-law of Charlotte Dyslin); 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); 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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Uyai Mose / Come All You People

Ostinato Refrain



U - ya - i mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri,
Come all you peo - ple, come and praise your Mak - er,



U - ya - i mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri,
Come all you peo - ple, come and praise your Mak - er,



U - ya - i mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri,
Come all you peo - ple, come and praise your Mak - er,



U - ya - i mo - se zvi - no.
Come now and wor - ship the Lord.

Text: Alexander Gouda, b.1936

Tune: Alexander Gouda, b.1936; arr. by John L. Bell, b.1949, © 1994, Ina Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

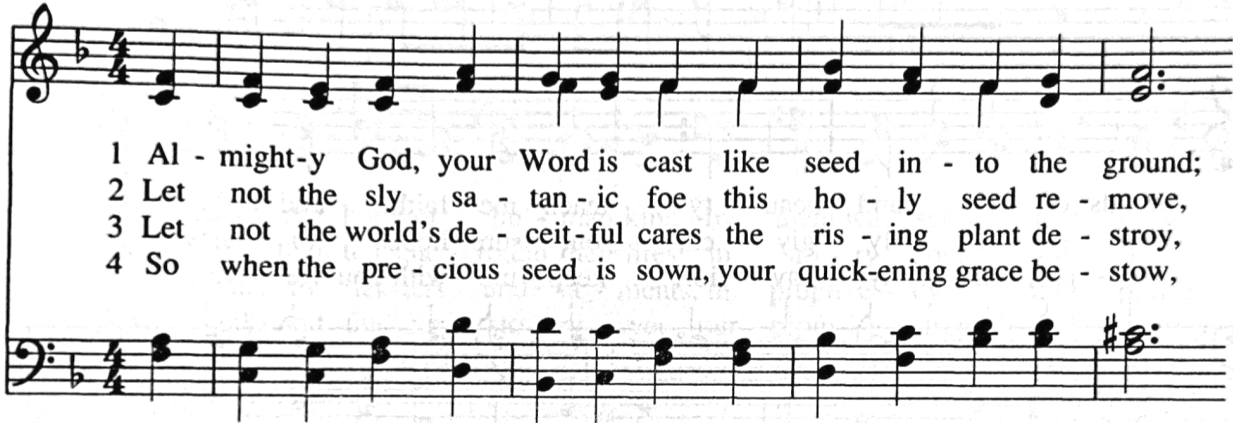
2. Come all you people, come and praise the Savior...
3. Come all you people, come and praise the Spirit...

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

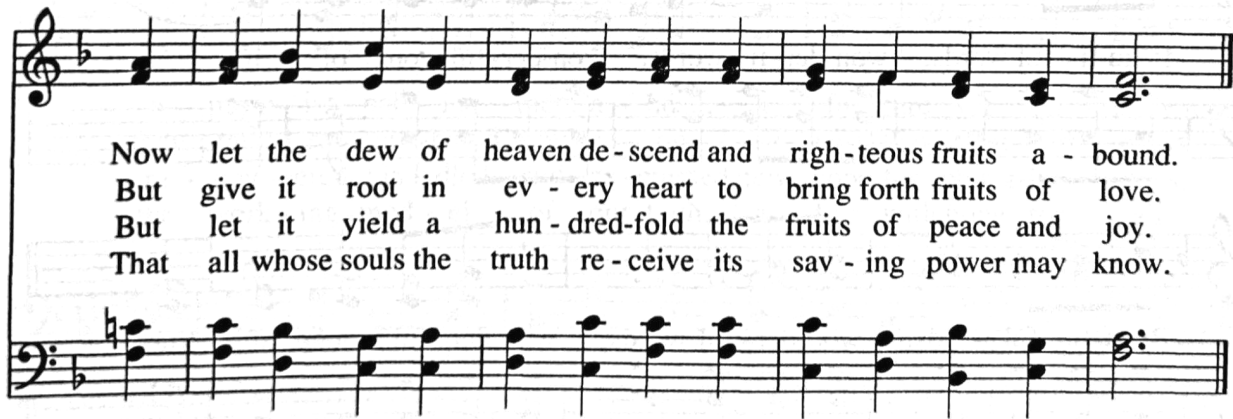
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John Cawood, 1815; alt.

Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23



1 Al - might-y God, your Word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, your quick - ening grace be - stow,



Now let the dew of heaven de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.
But give it root in ev - ery heart to bring forth fruits of love.
But let it yield a hun - dred-fold the fruits of peace and joy.
That all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing power may know.

Hymn

Be Now My Vision

Unison

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.



School Supply Drive

for the Madison School in Bridgeport

Most wanted items:

- Ticonderoga Pencils
- Glue sticks
- Notebooks
- Markers
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Copy paper

Please leave donations in the designated box in the church foyer



Summer Beach Services

8:15 a.m., Sasco Beach, Southport

Now Through Labor Day

In Partnership with Southport Congregational Church

July 12 - First Church

July 19 - Southport

July 26 - First Church

August 2 - Southport

August 9 - First Church

August 16 - Southport

August 23 - First Church

August 30 - Southport

September 6 - First Church



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Summer Pastoral Care

The Rev. Vanessa Rose will be away during the months of July and August. In July she is taking a month of sabbatical time. In August she will enjoy her annual family vacation.

During Vanessa's time away, we are blessed to have The Rev. Kathy Williamson on call to respond to pastoral care needs. The church office will coordinate these requests.

Please contact Beth in the church office or email her at office@firstchurchfairfield.org to make pastoral care arrangements.