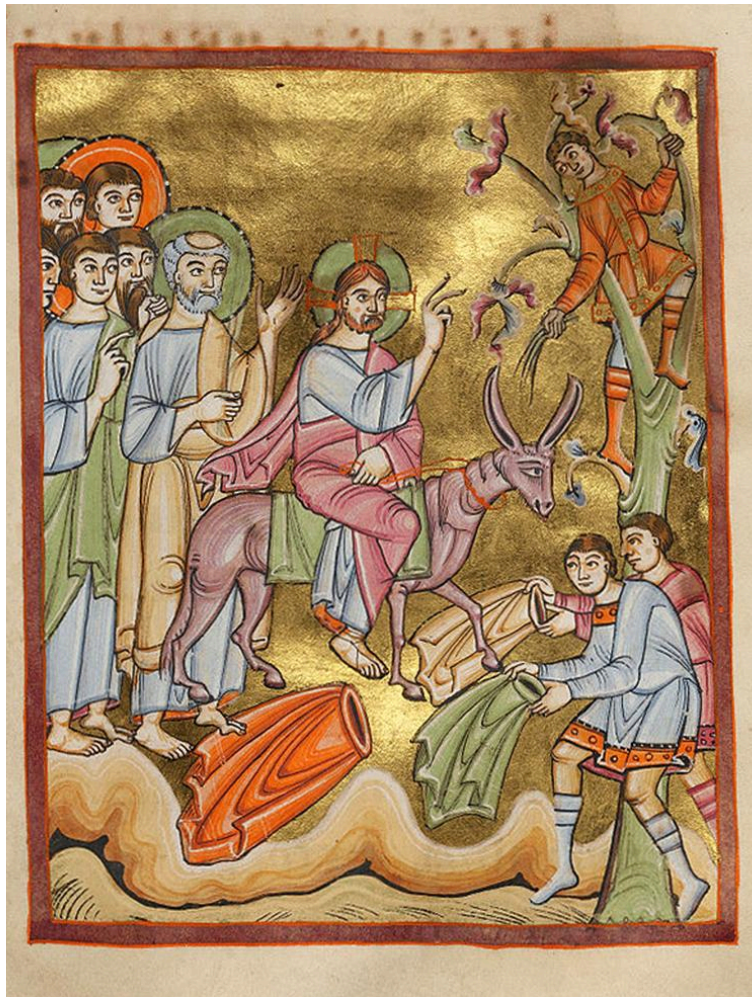




Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Jesus Entering Jerusalem, Getty Center

July 5, 2026
Sixth 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 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
Jermaine Charles, Audio & Video
Deacons: David McKinnis & Heather Hodgeman
Usher: Candace Meader

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

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

(Based on Psalm 85)

One: Set aside your wrath and turn from your fierce anger

All: Restore us again, O' God, and put away your displeasure toward us

One: You have shown favor to your land and forgave the iniquity of your people

All: Surely your salvation is near those who reverence you

One: Love and faithfulness meet together, righteousness and peace kiss each other

**All: Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down
from Heaven**

One: Praise God, who brings life out of death and hope out of despair

All: For God has done excellent things

One: Praise God who gathers up the fragments left by human destruction and creates
new possibilities.

**All: The Lord will indeed give what is good, and the land will be restored;
Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for His steps.**

*Hymn

Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing (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

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

***Hymn of Praise**

Halle, Halle, Halle

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

Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sermon

The Rev. Kathy Williamson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S HOLY WORD

***Hymn**

Just a Walk Closer with Thee

(see back pages of this bulletin)

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Beach Spring

arr. Timothy Shaw

*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

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Anthem

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

American Folktune

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have renewed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith in you, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ. Amen

*Hymn

I've Got Peace Like a River

(see back pages of this bulletin)

*Benediction and Response

God Be With You



Postlude

“Nettleton”

arr. John Carter

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; 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 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); 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 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); 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).

Permissions

Just a Closer Walk With Thee arr. Mark Hayes

Halle, Halle, Halle Arr. by John L. Bell; © 1990, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.

Beach Spring, arr. Timothy Shaw; "Nettleton" arr. John Carter; Livestreamed/reprinted with permission, OneLicense.net #A-731937.

Hymn

Just a Walk Closer with Thee

Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it,
1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus,
2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I
3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for

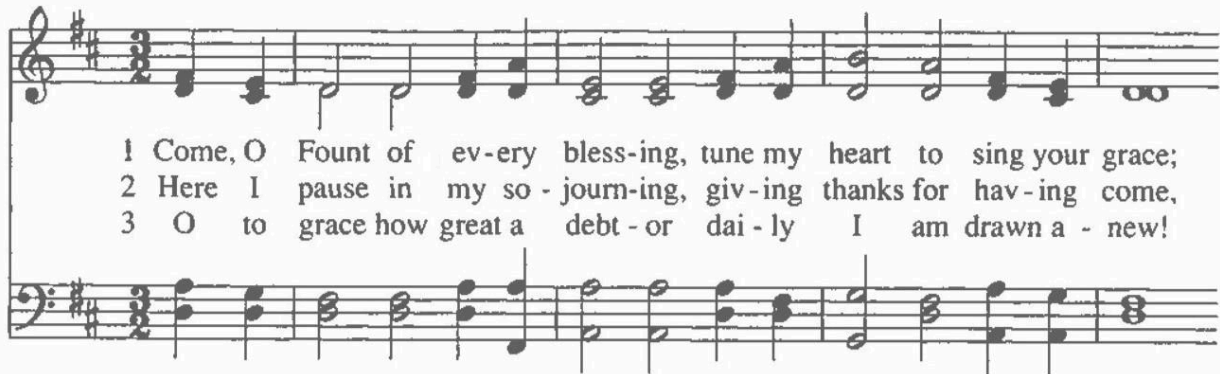
Je - sus, is my plea, dai - ly walk - ing close to
keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly

thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Ref.
shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. Ref.
o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. Ref.

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

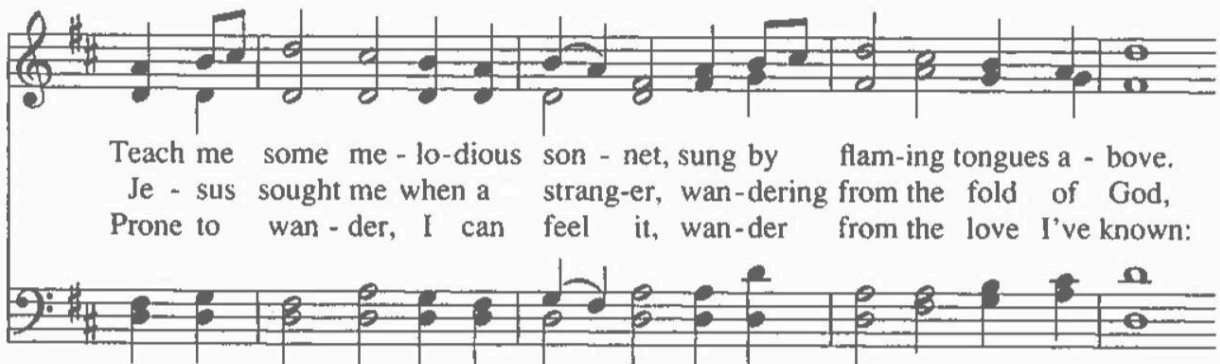
Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.



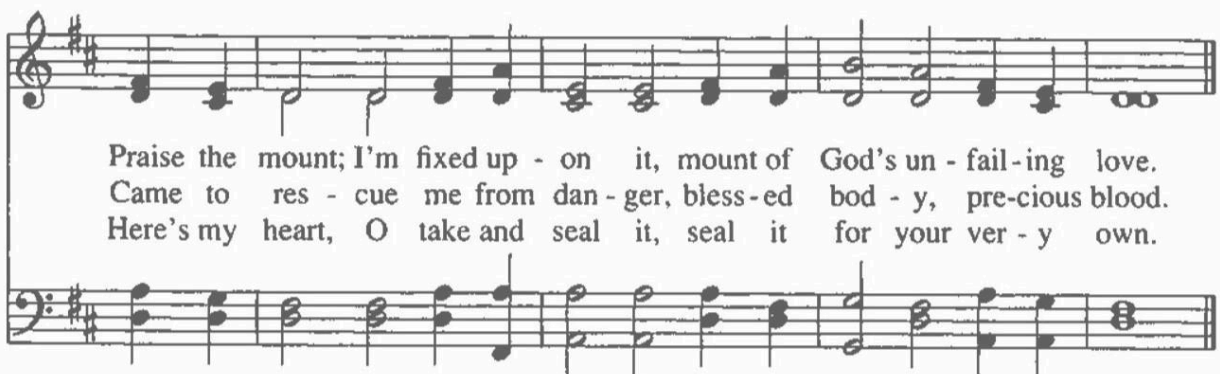
1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

Hymn

I've Got Peace Like a River

1 I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
2 I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a
3 I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an
4 I've got faith like an an - chor, I've got faith like an

1
riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er, in my
foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain, in my
o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean, in my
an - chor, I've got faith like an an - chor, in my

2
soul. I've got riv - er in my soul.
soul. I've got foun-tain in my soul.
soul. I've got o - cean in my soul.
soul. I've got an - chor in my soul.



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



Est. 1639

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.