Welcome! How wonderful it is to worship together indoors. In keeping with guidance from the Fairfield Department of Public Health, please wear a mask and practice social distancing. Hymns will be sung by a soloist or small group. These simple steps will help keep us all safe!

All the People of God (that’s you!) speak the text in boldface.
Worship leaders speak the text in regular type.
Italic Text provides explanation or instruction.

We Gather to Hear God’s Word

Welcome & Announcements
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!

Prelude

Introit  We Give Thee But Thine Own
*Call to Worship*

In a world that cries out, “Fear me!”
We will listen to Jesus’ words, “Don’t be afraid!”

In a world that wants us to hate the other…
We will live Jesus’ call to, “Love God.
Love your neighbor, as you love yourself.”

In a world that radicalizes…
We, too, will be radical.
Radical with our hospitality.
Radical with our hope.
Radical with our love.

Then come to this place,
ready to be who we are called to be.
Let us gather together
and worship God.

**Hymn**

*We Are An Offering*

Please meditate as you listen to the hymn, since we are limiting singing to keep the most vulnerable among us safe.

We lift our voices    All that we have
We lift our hands    All that we are
We lift our lives up to You    All that we hope to be
We are an offering
Lord use our voices    We give to You
Lord use our hands
Lord use our lives they are Yours
We are an offering
*Prayer of Invocation and The Lord’s Prayer

*Please respond:

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

Candle of Witness  “Rooted in Love, 2022 Annual Pledge Campaign”  
Joy Nazzaro

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

Ruth 1:1-18 Mark 12:28-34

Sermon

The Reverend Vanessa Rose

Anthem

Here I Am Lord  
Schutte, arr. Sherman

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Invitation to the Offering

Sharing Our Pledges  *(You are invited to bring your pledge forward)*

Offertory
Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done.

Hymn  

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Please meditate as you listen to the hymn, since we are limiting singing to keep the most vulnerable among us safe.

God, whose giving knows no ending,
From your rich and endless store:
Costly cross, grave's shattered door,
Gifted by You, we turn to You,
Off'ring up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever,
Gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing
Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom,
Races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants
Fit to answer at Your throne.

Treasure, too, You have entrusted,
Gain through pow'rs Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred,
And to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
Serving You by loving all.

Benediction and Sung Response

Postlude
Leading Us in Worship
The Reverend David W. Spollett
The Reverend Vanessa Rose
Heidi Butler, Student Pastor
Deacons Greg Jefremow and Todd Gregory
Alexis Zingale, Pianist
Caithlin De Marrais, Guest Conductor
The Chancel Choir
Cheri Evan, Alan Fuehring, Amy-Alison Ward,
Andrew and David McKinnis, Technical Team

Permissions
Music reprinted with permission, OneLicense.net #A-731937.
Call to worship – written by Richard Bott, and posted on Sharing Liturgy.
http://liturgy.richardbott.com/

Please Hold in your Prayers

Disciples at First Church: Chris Bernd, Sandy Bromer; Pertrineia Cash; Ken and Betsy Dalling; Fernando Destruge; Gayle Hand; John Harmon; Joyce Hutchings; Sonia Gutierrez and Henry Hernandez; Christy Jefremow; Cathy Kane, her brother Scott and great niece Amelia; Jane Keller; Adelaide Kitchen; Alice and Jerry Krenke; Lillian Klein; Gerry Kuroghlian; Beth McKinnis; Gerry O'Donovan; Chantel Opal; Donna Schmidt; Joe and Lauren Strickland’s five grandsons in Libya; Penny Stevens; Arlene Studer; Joann Van Esselstyn; Bill Verdier; Elinor Wilber; and Edith Zambo.

Serving in the military: James Classy, Sam Classy, Trevor Dawson, David Elmore, Sean Lomnitzer, Keley McKenzie and Christopher Muschett.

Those on the Front Lines of COVID-19:
Friends of First Church: Elizabeth Brennan, Marguerite Dolan (Matt Dolan’s mom), Fairfield EMS, Ericka Gordon, Stephen Huelskamp, Tracie and Devon Lingenfelter, Lauren Redler McGrath, Maria Pellegrino, Diane Marble, Casey Redler, Maria Sutton (First Baptist Church) Anna Taft, and Ann Yergeau.

Family and Friends: Connie Accomando (Jim’s mom); Thelma Anderson (David McKinnis’ Aunt); Mary Barbis; Cecelia Barr (Sue O’Donovan’s mother); The Broderick Family (Friends of Frank Martignetti); Kevin Butler (Heidi’s Dad); Marina Caclio (Sonia’s sister’s mother-in-law); Connor, Mike & Jess Callahan (friends of Rita Skog); Elizabeth Clark (friend of the Gindek family); Bryan Cunningham (friend of Amiee guerrero); Olivia DeCarli (granddaughter of Laura and Doug Koch); Brandon Deedon (Pertrinea Cash’s son); Don Collins (David McFadden’s Brother-in-law) and his wife Edith; Linda Drew (friend of Poppy Bonuomo); Tom Dwyer (Phil’s brother); William Fensterer (Julie Traum’s Dad); Nat Ferrante (Paul Ferrante’s Father); Sharon Friedlander (Connie Sargent’s cousin); Greg and Laura Feigo; Linda Goldstein (friend of Poppy Bonuomo); Greenawalt and Darnall Families (Gindek family); Jose Gutierrez (Sonia’s Dad); Christina Holms (Connie and Bill Sargent’s niece); Norma Jenkins and Family (friends of the Gindek family); Nancy and Paul King; Martha Krollman; Bill Lucas (Nancy Szwejkowski’s Brother); Tim Marble (Charlotte Dyslin’s brother); MaKayla and John McGovern (friends of Donna Kersten); Family of Amanda O’Brien (Friend’s of Julie Traum); Amadeu Pereira (Maria Ferrante’s Uncle); Artie Quinn; Nan Scarbrough (David McKinnis' dad's wife); Levi Schmidt (friend of Penny Stevens); Darlene and Bobby Scaia (Pat Bilotto’s cousins); Dorothy Steinman; Seth Sullivan (Jacque Paige’s nephew); Hayder, Nada, Ali, and Leith Tawfiq (friends of First Church); and Danielle Taal and her five sons (Lauren and Joe Strickland’s daughter and grandsons).

The Needs of God’s Beloved World

- The people of Haiti who are living in chaotic and desperate circumstances and the Christian Missionaries who have been kidnapped there.

- All victims of the COVID-19 pandemic; worldwide nearly 5 million people who have died, including over 732,000 in the US and all who are suffering in the recent surges including Alaska, Montana, and Idaho.

- Nearly 83 million refugees and displaced people around the world.
• The people of Madagascar, the Horn of Africa, and Yemen suffering in famine.

• Asylum seekers who are often being deported from the US without due process.

• The people of Afghanistan, those who remain in their country, all those who have fled, and those seeking safety and a new life in the US.

• All who have suffered and died in the natural disasters brought on by climate change around the world.

• All those who provide vaccinations and who care for COVID-19 patients.

• All who work in education, health care, public safety, and armed services.

• All living with addiction, those in recovery, who have died, & loved ones.

• The 34,023 people killed by gunshot this year; of those 18,348 suicides.

• Victims in 536 mass shootings this year.

• Survivors of sexual assault, abuse, & harassment & those who love them.

• All who work to prevent domestic violence and to care for the victims.

• Our Sisters and Brothers of the First Baptist Church, Stratford.

• People who live with mental illness and all who suffer from loneliness

• The Uighur and Rohingya people and all victims of genocidal violence.

• The people of Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Chad, Darfur, Dem. Rep. of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Iraq, Libya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, and all suffering the ravages of war.

• Our community partners: FaithActs for Education; Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport (CCGB); Mercy Learning Center; Operation Hope; Westbridge; Simply Smiles; Make the Road Connecticut; Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut (CONECT); the Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants (CIRI); and Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS).
You Can Help!!

Deliver Non-Perishable Food, Diapers, Checks, and Gift Cards to Wakeman Hall by Thursday Noon for delivery to the Food Pantry at Mercy Learning Center on Friday Morning!!

These are basic items that will help right now:

- bags of rice and bags of any type of dried beans, lentils, etc.
- tomato paste, tomato sauce, or diced tomatoes
- oatmeal, cream of wheat, corn meal,
- pasta, cooking oil, flour
- powdered or evaporated milk
- canned meats, canned fruit, canned vegetables
- toilet paper, bars of soap, other toiletries
- Diapers: sizes 4, 5, and especially 6
- Gift cards: Stop and Shop, ShopRite, Walgreens, CVS
- Financial Donations: Mail to First Church, check payable to Mercy Learning Center.

This Week:

**Sunday, Oct. 31 Giving Sunday**

8:15am    Worship, Wakeman Hall  
9:15am    Bible Study on ZOOM  
10:15am    Worship, Wakeman Hall and Online  
10:15am    Disciple Road, Library  
10:30am    Middle Road, Garden of Hope  
11:30am    Giving Sunday Fellowship  
6:00pm    High Road, at the Firepit

**Friday, Nov. 5**

4:00pm    The Loft, Wakeman Stage

**Sunday, Nov. 7 All Souls**

8:15am    Worship, Wakeman Hall  
9:15am    Bible Study on ZOOM  
10:15am    Worship, Wakeman Hall and Online  
10:15am    Disciple Road, Library

**Wednesday, Nov. 3**

10:00am    Bible Study on ZOOM

**Thursday, Nov. 4**

12:30pm    Pastoral Team Meeting  
4:30pm    Children’s Choir, Webb Room  
6:00pm    Handbell Choir, Webb Room  
7:30pm    Chancel Choir, Wakeman Hall

Sunday worship at 10:15am can be viewed on our website: [www.firstchurchfairfield.org](http://www.firstchurchfairfield.org)
Homecare Accessories Available:
Do you need a wheelchair or maybe a standing magnifying lamp to assist with reading? How about a cane to assist in getting around? First Church has the following accessories available:
Walkers
Wheelchair
Bedrail
Bedside Commode
Shower chair
Canes

Please contact Cheri if you would like any of these items.
203.259.8396 x 100
cevan@firstchurchfairfield.org

All Souls
November 7
Please send the names of those you would like remembered to Cheri by October 29 for inclusion in the bulletin.
cevan@firstchurchfairfield.org
203-864-5969 x 100

11/6/21
FAIRFIELD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE
with FIRST CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL PRESENT
Fall Are Welcome!
An Inclusive gathering celebrating diversity in Fairfield
Free, family-friendly activities & refreshments provided
When: Saturday, 11/6/21 - 10am - 1pm
Where: First Church Fairfield
148 Fairfield Beach Rd, Fairfield, CT 06824
THREE KINGS BAZAAR
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2021
6pm – 8pm on the lawn of First Church

Please join us for an outside version of our Three Kings Bazaar. We will have hot dogs, hot chocolate, hot cider and a bake sale. Special activities for the kids will include writing a letter to Santa, ornament making and writing a wish to hang on our Christmas Tree.

Frank Martignetti, Director of Music and Organist will lead our choir in carols with instrumentalists and anyone who wishes to join them.

Please consider baking cookies, cookie bars, 3-5 cookies in baggies, depending on size of the cookie, brownies, cakes or pies. Please drop off in Wakeman Hall, right outside of the kitchen, starting on 10/2. “You bake it, we take it!” If anyone has any questions, please call: Cathy Kane 203-257-2276, or email. cathykane2525@gmail.com, or Wendy Muschett 203-521-7793. or email. wendymuschett@optonline.net.
Don’t forget the Town Tree Lighting will be at 7PM across the street and Santa will arrive on the fire truck.

Get into the holiday spirit and join our festive bazaar.

If you would like to volunteer that evening, please call Joy Nazzaro, 203-572-4669.

Thank you so much.

WELCOME THE STRANGER

First Church and other church partners have been busy cleaning and prepping apartments for arriving families from Afghanistan and Syria.
Thank you all for your donations of time and materials.

Julie Mughal and Patty Gregory are collecting materials for future apartment setups. Please see this signup for a list of requested items. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e4fa9ad2fa6ff2-stock

Thank you for helping us welcome the stranger!