



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation  
of the United Church of Christ



*Velázquez, Diego, 1599-1660*

**April 14, 2024**  
**The Third Sunday of Easter**  
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 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" (Pre-K through 4th grade) and "Middle Road" (5th grade and up). We also have a children's choir. Reach out to Kim (kfeeney@firstchurchfairfield.org) for more information about our children's ministries & faith formation programs.

We have a new **hearing assist system** available. Download the WaveCast Audio Receiver app by Williams Sound for your smartphone and it will sync with your wifi or Bluetooth enabled hearing aid, so you can hear the service through your own hearing aid. We also have receivers with earpieces available. Please speak to an usher if you would like one. This worship service is live streamed on our webpage and on our Facebook page.

### WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

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.

**Prelude**

*Prelude on "Slane"*

Craig Phillips

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Friendship Register**

**Introit**

*Jesu, Tava Pano*

Patrick Matsikenyiri

**\*Call to Worship**

One: This is the message I have heard from him  
and now celebrate with you: Christ is risen!

**All: He is risen indeed.**

One: Blessed are you who have not seen him,  
yet you truly believe and trust him.

**All: See how good and delightful it is  
when God's people gather together as one.**

One: The Lord has commanded a great blessing:

**All: Life for evermore.**

**\*Hymn**

*I Greet You, Sure Redeemer*

251 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.**

**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 Sacrament of Baptism**

Peter Jansen Van Arsdale, Child of Jansen Van Arsdale & Alexia Quinn

Godparents: Aidan Quinn and Carolynn Van Arsdale

**Baptism Prayer**

We give you thanks, O Holy One, for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us the grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ. Give to Peter Jansen strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

**\*Hymn**

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

325 New Century Hymnal

**Candle of Witness**

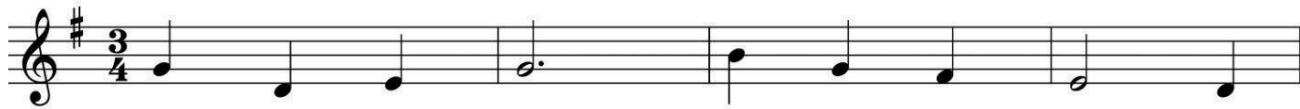
Earth Care Sunday

Peggy Lindsey

**GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED**

**\*Hymn of Praise**

*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen* (verse 3)



1. Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
2. Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
3. Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es;  
4. Weep - ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent:  
5. Cit - y of God, East - er for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
Tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
Life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
Death put a - sun - der, and East - er is bright.  
Gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for - ev - er!  
Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us glo - ry:  
Heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
Riv - er of life, Saints and arch - an - gels,



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

**Scripture**

Luke 24:13-49

**Sermon**

**\*Hymn**

*Be Now My Vision*

451 New Century Hymnal

**Joys and Concerns**

Today's flowers have been donated by Ellen Kuroghlian and are given for the Glory of God in memory of Jerry Kuroghlian and his sister, Shelley Kuroghlian, who each left a legacy of love of learning and dedication to public service.

## Prayers of the People

### Invitation to Offering

#### Offertory

*This Joyful Eastertide*

Dutch

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow.  
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.

Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen.

My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber:  
Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.

Death's flood hath lost his chill, since Jesus crossed the river:  
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.

#### \*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

### 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.**

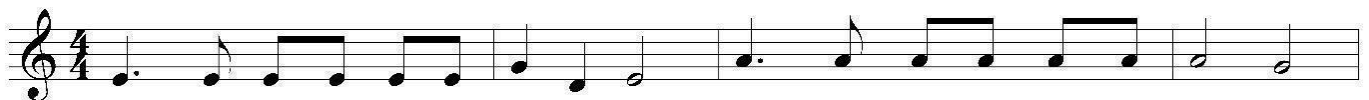
#### \*Hymn

*The Day of Resurrection*

245 New Century Hymnal

#### \*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.

**Leading Us in Worship**

The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Pastor  
 Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist  
 Deacon Dave Welchman, Greg xxx  
 Chancel Choir  
 Ushers Amy-Alison Ward, Tom Croakin

**Please Hold in your Prayers:**

**Disciples at First Church:** Helen Barnum; Christian Bassett; Chris Bernd; Sandy Bromer; Glen Brown; LaNeil Brown, Sr.; Linda Corby; Betsy Dalling; Fernando Destruge; Charlotte Jefremow; Christy Jefremow; Nancy Jones and family; Cathy Kane, her brother Scott and great niece Amelia; Adelaide Kitchen; Lillian Klein; Jerry Krenke; Penny Stevens; Joann Van Esselstyn; Andrea Wakeman; Elinor Wilber; and Edith Zambo. We hold in our prayers all those who face living with memory loss and Alzheimer's disease and we pray for their caregivers.

**Serving in the military:** James Classy, Sam Classy, Trevor Dawson, David Elmore, Charles Ikeda, Kelcy McKenzie, and Christopher Muschett.

**Family and Friends:** Connie Accomando (Jim's mom); Colleen Ring Campbell and family; Brandon Deedon (Pertrinea Cash's son); Paul Douglas (Rita Skog's cousin); Lynelle Dupuis (sister of Bethany); Carter Faustini; William Fensterer (Julie Traum's father); Kimberly Fetteri (friend of the Gindek family); Nate Gifford (Connie Sargent's cousin); David Green (friend of David McKinnis); Greenawalt and Darnall Families (Gindek family); Bill Fry (Penny Stevens' brother-in-law); Walter Haenn (brother of Madeline Lee); Yochai Harel, Melanie Rainbow-Harel and family (friends of Michelle Walker); Tiffany Hinton (friend of Rita Skog); Christina Holms (Connie and Bill Sargent's niece); Erol Kephelas (cousin of Rita Skog); Nancy King (Friend of Paul Cahill); Susan Labas (friend of Patty Bilotto); Peter Maloney; Verne Marble (Charlotte Dyslin's mother); Dorothy Michalowski (friend of Connie and Bill Sargent); Andre Mirkine; Barbara Peterson (friend of Ted and Judy Andre); Artie Quinn; Dick Reese (father in law of Melissa Stanhewicz); Patty Roberts (cousin of Connie and Bill Sargent); Rosalie Rutkauskas (Jessie's Grandmother); Nan Scarborough (Stepmother of David McKinnis); Levi Schmidt (Russ Stevens' father-in-law); Darlene and Bobby Scaia (Pat Bilotto's cousins); Stephen Stenberg (son of Jeanne Reed's college friend); Danielle Taal, daughter of Joe and Lauren Strickland, and their five grandsons in Libya; Hayder, Nada, Ali, and Leith Tawfiq (friends of First Church), John Anderson (David Mckinnis' uncle)

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Please stay for Fellowship Hour  
in the Webb Room following worship



If you would like to take a turn to host  
please email Cathy Kane:  
[ckfellowship.coffeehour@gmail.com](mailto:ckfellowship.coffeehour@gmail.com)

Pray  
Together



Join Senior Deacon Wendy Williams  
Brown in the Spollet Chapel for a  
time of prayer between the services.

## Environmental Justice Team

April 28<sup>th</sup> will be our Celebration of Creation Sunday. Plans for the day include a 'planting party' at Parish Court. We'll meet there at 1:00pm and we will be planting pollinator friendly perennial plants for the residents to enjoy.

If you would like to join the group for a sandwich lunch, please send a note to Dean Lindsey [rev.dean.lindsey@gmail.com](mailto:rev.dean.lindsey@gmail.com)

Follow Us On  
SOCIAL MEDIA



@FirstChurchFairfield



@First Church Congregational

## SUSTAINABLE FAIRFIELD TASK FORCE



Sustainable Fairfield Task Force has received a Community Partnership Initiative grant through Energize CT to support a campaign to encourage Income Eligible (i.e., low or fixed income) households to have home energy assessments and consider switching to heat pumps. The Home Energy Solution - Income Eligible program is available at no cost for qualifying customers (the same general program is available to non-Income Eligible households but requires a \$75 co-pay).

***The value of services provided is estimated to be about \$850 and annual savings are about \$180 for the average home.***

As part of this program, participating churches will receive a \$25 referral fee for any member that goes through with an assessment. Please mention First Church when you call New England Smart Energy for an appointment at 203-292-8088

**Questions about the program?**

**Robert Wall at Sustainable Fairfield can be reached at 203-581-0006**



# REMEMBERANCE STONES

## HISTORY OF SLAVERY IN CONNECTICUT, FAIRFIELD & FIRST CHURCH *LECTURE & RECEPTION*

Join Town of Fairfield Enslaved Database Co-Creator, Alec Lurie, in a presentation on the history of slavery. Four pre-Civil War First Church pastors enslaved 10 people while serving as spiritual leaders of our Church and our Town.

**APRIL 26, 2024**

**7:30PM**

**FIRST CHURCH, FAIRFIELD, CT**

***RECEPTION TO FOLLOW***



**SPEAKER:**

**ALEC LURIE**

Alec is a PHD student at Stony Brook University studying the institution of slavery in the American north. For the last six years, he has been the research project lead for the Fairfield Slavery project.