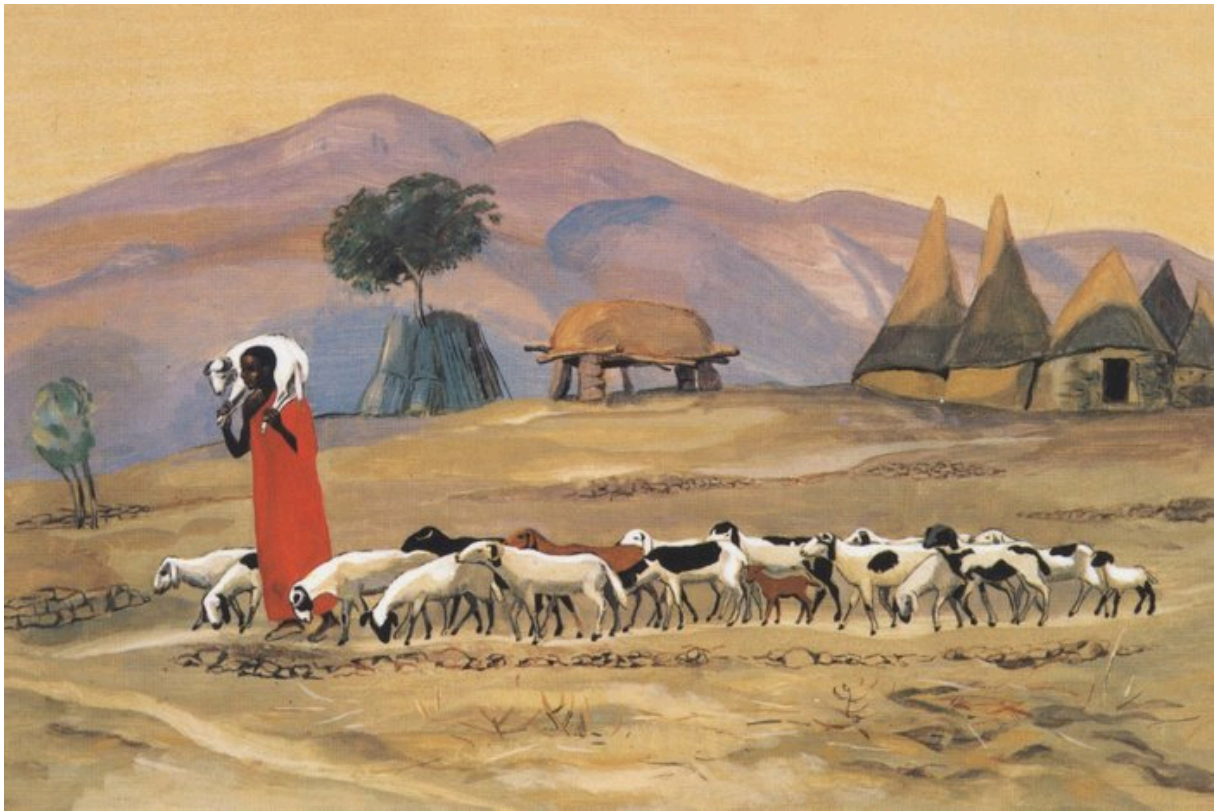




Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ



The good shepherd JESUS MAFA

April 21, 2024
The Fourth 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

The Lord Is My Shepherd (Six Hymn Settings on Psalm 23)

Wilbur Held

6. "Resignation"
2. "St. Columba"

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Register

Introit

What We Need Is Here

Amy McCreath

***Call to Worship**

One: As God is our shepherd we need nothing else.

**All: We rest in green pastures and walk by still waters,
which renews and refreshes our spirits.**

One: God guides us along paths of righteousness

**All: And walks with us through shadowed valleys so we are not afraid.
The shepherd's staff comforts us.**

One: God set the banquet table for us in the presence of our enemies.
There we're anointed with oil and our cup overflows.

**All: Goodness and mercy shall never depart from us
as long as we dwell in the house of God.**

***Hymn**

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

80 Pilgrim 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

Sean Patrick Wilson, Child of Anne & Molly Wilson

Godparents: Serena Haggerty & Brent Levin

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 Sean Patrick 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**

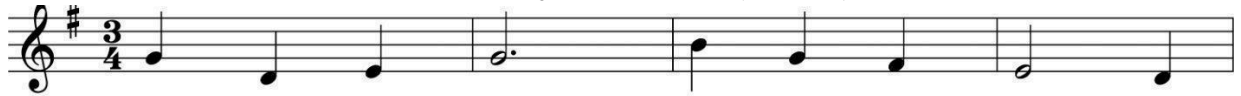
Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

325 New Century Hymnal

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

*Hymn of Praise

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen (verse 4)



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,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



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



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

Scripture

Psalm 23

Sermon

Rev. Jake Miles Joseph

Joys and Concerns

Today's flowers have been donated by Trudy Stevens to the glory of God and for all the generous and caring people who make First Church a loving family.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace

Spiritual, arr. Appling

We shall walk through the valley in peace;
We shall walk through the valley in peace.
If Jesus Himself shall be our Leader,
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

There will be no sorrow there;
There will be no sorrow there.
If Jesus Himself shall be our Leader,
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

There will be no dying there;
There will be no dying there.
If Jesus Himself shall be our Leader,
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

***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**

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

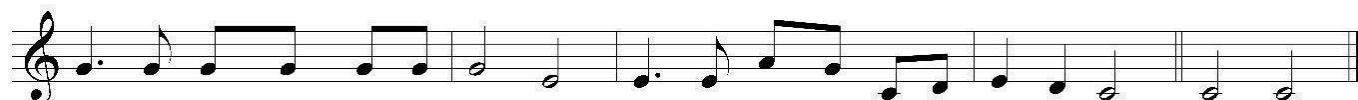
400 New Century Hymnal

***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.

Postlude

Postlude on "Regent Square"

Alec Rowley

Leading Us in Worship

The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Pastor

The Rev. Jake Miles Joseph, Preacher in Residence

The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Deacons Celeste McGeehan, David McKinnis and Greg Jefremow

Chancel Choir

Usher Madeline Lee

Permissions

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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; 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)

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

Pray
Together



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

39th Annual
**Town of Fairfield
Holocaust Commemoration**

Wednesday, May 1 - 7:30pm
First Church Fairfield

www.fairfieldct.org/holocaustcommittee



REMEMBRANCE
STONES

Lecture & Reception

Friday, April 26 - 7:30pm
First Church Fairfield

Reception To Follow

Environmental Justice Team

April 28th 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



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