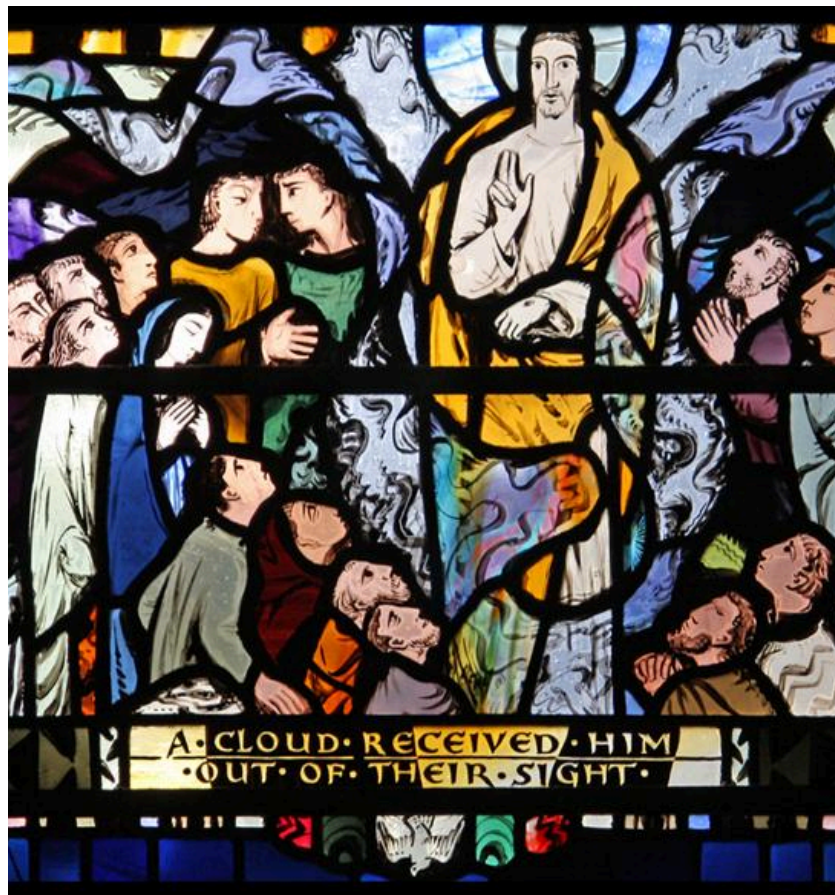




Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation  
of the United Church of Christ



*Ascension, St. Etheldreda's Church, London*

**May 12, 2024**  
**The Seventh 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" (Age 4 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**

*Sonata in C Major*

Carl Friedrich Abel

1. Allegro

2. Adagio

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Friendship Register**

**Introit**

*Hine ma tov*

Traditional Hebrew

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Today we celebrate our mothers, grandmothers, aunties, and all the women who have loved and witnessed to our lives.

**All: Thank you God for giving us mothers.**

One: We remember with deep gratitude all the ways they demonstrated their love for us.

**All: Sometimes we did not understand them, but we know that God understood.**

One: We take time to remember our mothers because a mother's love is often like God's love.

**All: For their tears, for their hugs, for their wisdom, for their unfailing trust in our abilities, we give thanks today. Amen**

**\*Hymn**

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

439 *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.*

**Children's Moment**

*Spirit, Come Down*

Mark Patterson

*Children and leaders are now invited to go to Disciple Road.*

**Candle of Witness**

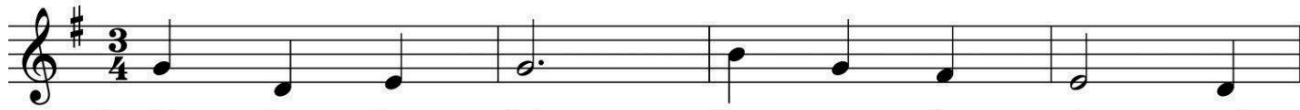
Two Houses, One Home

Lucas Walker

**GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED**

\*Hymn of Praise

*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen* (verse 1)



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

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Sermon

*Witnessing Love: Mothers, Matthias, and Mentors*

Rev. Jake Joseph

\*Hymn

*Blessed Assurance*

473 *New Century Hymnal*

### Joys and Concerns

The flowers today are given by Penny Stevens to the glory of God and in loving memory of her husband, Wayne Stevens, and her parents, Mike and E.B. Read.

### Prayers of the People

### Invitation to Offering

Offertory

*I Will Not Leave You Comfortless*

Carlton Young

I will not leave you comfortless,  
I will come to you yet again;  
and your heart shall rejoice. Alleluia!

Yet a little while and the world shall see  
Me no more, but you shall see Me,  
because I live, you also shall live.

### \*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

*Arise, Your Light is Come*

164 *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

*Ein Feste Burg*

arr. Paul Manz

## Leading Us in Worship

The Rev. Jake Joseph, Preacher in Residence

The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Pastor

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Kimberly Feeney, Director of Disciple Road

Bethany Dupuis, Children's Music Leader

Chancel Choir

**Deacons** David McKinnis, Greg Jefremo, Celeste McGeehan

**Ushers** Madeline Lee and Candace Meader

## 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); 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); 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); 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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**Memorial Day**  
**at First Church, Fairfield**  
**Monday, May 27**

Featuring: Yard games, bounce houses, bake sale, cotton candy, face painting, kids treats, hot air balloon rides & more!

**Volunteers & Bakers Needed!!**

Balloon Ride Registration at:



SCAN ME



VOCE  
**phoenix**  
 rising and return

in collaboration with  
**Dimensional Dance** | **Dan Forrest** | **Fairfield County Children's Choir**

Saturday, May 18 at 7:30pm  
 Immanuel Congregational Church  
 10 Woodland St. Hartford, CT

Sunday, May 19 at 3:00pm  
 First Church Congregational  
 148 Beach Rd. Fairfield, CT

for tickets visit [voceinc.org](http://voceinc.org)



**Summer Worship**  
**Sasco Beach**  
 Sundays at 8:15am  
 June 16 - September 1  
*Beach Permits Not Required*



**First Church**  
**Vacation Bible School**

**June 17 to 21**  
**for Ages 4 to 10**

Registration Now Open at  
[FirstChurchFairfield.org](http://FirstChurchFairfield.org).





**Please join us for worship next  
Sunday, May 19 at 10:30 a.m.  
at**

**First Baptist Church,  
1301 Stratford Avenue, Stratford  
as we celebrate  
Two Houses, One Home**

*There will be no May 19 services at First Church.*