

Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation  
of the United Church of Christ



*I am the Gate, detail of Dove: Peter Koenig*

**May 5, 2024**  
**The Sixth 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** *Come Down, O Love Divine* Robert J. Powell

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Friendship Register**

**Introit** *O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord* Donald Moore

**\*Call to Worship**

One: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

**All: Let our joy be complete!**

One: Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

**All: Love one another!**

One: Strangers and neighbors, newcomers and family will join in the new song:

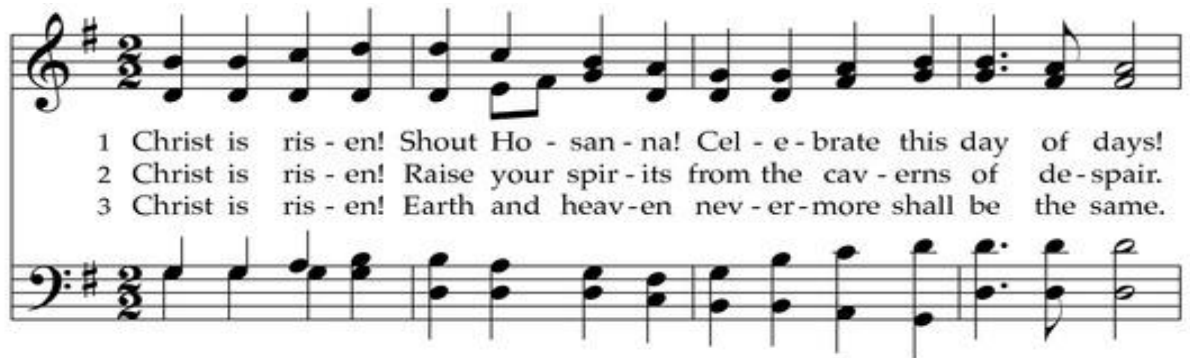
**All: No longer servants but friends!**

One: Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

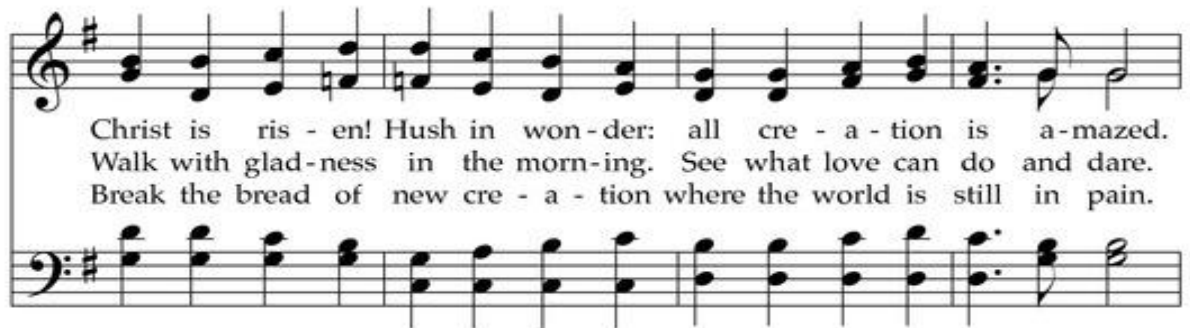
**All: Rejoicing in the friendship of God.**

\*Hymn

*Christ Is Risen., Shout Hosanna!*



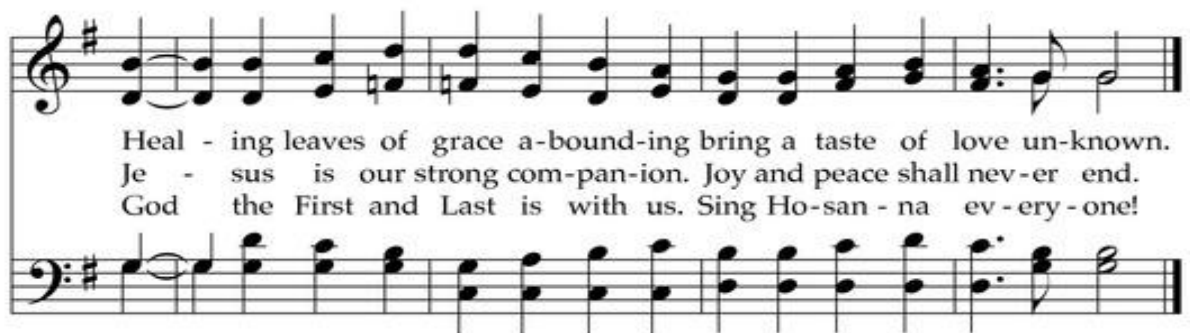
1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!  
2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.  
3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.  
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.  
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.  
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.  
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.  
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.  
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

\*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.*

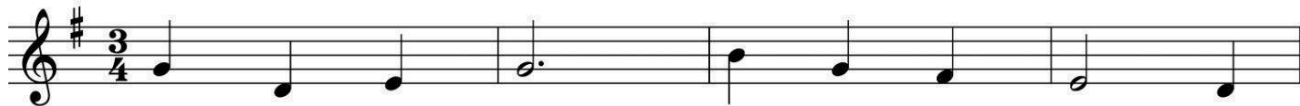
## Candle of Witness

CROP Hunger Walk

### GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

#### \*Hymn of Praise

*Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen* (verse 5)



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**

Acts 8:26-40 John 15:9-17

**Sermon**

**\*Hymn**

*Come Down, O Love Divine*

289 *New Century Hymnal*

**Joys and Concerns**

**Prayers of the People**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory**

*If Ye Love Me*

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments.  
And I will pray the Father,  
And He shall give you another comforter,  
That He may abide with you forever;  
Even the spirit of truth.

**\*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 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

**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**

*There's A Wideness in God's Mercy*

23 *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**

*Hymn to Joy*

arr. Edward Broughton

**Leading Us in Worship**

The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Pastor

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Kimberly Feeney, Director of Disciple Road

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); 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)

## Permissions

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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

Pray  
Together



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

Follow Us On  
SOCIAL MEDIA



@FirstChurchFairfield



@First Church Congregational

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)



**MEMORIAL DAY**  
**AT FIRST CHURCH**  
**MONDAY, MAY 27 AT 9:00AM**

JOIN US TO KICK OFF SUMMER  
AND HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

**FEATURING:**  
BOUNCE HOUSES  
YARD GAMES  
TREATS & MORE!  
**HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES!!!**  
**MORE DETAILS TO COME**





We look forward to joining First Baptist Church of Stratford, our partner in Two Houses, One Home, on May 19th at 10:30am for Pentecost Sunday.

1301 Stratford Ave, Stratford

There will be no worship at First Church that day.