



Est. 1639

An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ



Sophia with her daughters, Faith, Hope, and Love Bulgaria, 19th century

March 17, 2024
The Fifth Sunday in Lent
10:15 AM

Welcome!

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.

Welcome to our guests! Thank you for being here. It is such a joy to worship with you. Our 10:15 service is also live streamed on our webpage and on our Facebook page. 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!

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

Andante in Bb

Louis Lefébure-Wely

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Give Me A Clean Heart

Margaret J. Douroux

***Call to Worship**

One: We have gathered in God's holy presence, the One who etches grace on our hearts.

All: This is the place where God will transform us into disciples.

One: We glorify our God, who yearns for justice, not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.

All: This is the place where God will write compassion on our souls.

One: We give thanks to God for unceasing grace; we remember God's persistence in saving us.

All: This is the place where God will breathe the Word into our lives. Let us worship our God together!

***Hymn**

Lift High the Cross

198 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.

Children's Message

Kim Feeney, Director of Disciple Road

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 may go with their friends and teachers to Disciple and Middle Road.

Kyrie

Mass of St Augustine

Leon Roberts

1. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have
2. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have
3. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have
mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have

1., 2. mer - cy. 3. mer - cy.

Scripture

John 12:20-36

Sermon

***Hymn**

My Song Is Love Unknown

222 New Century Hymnal

Joys and Concerns

Today's flowers have been donated by Sharon Cloutier in loving memory of her dear friend and colleague Marion, whose kindness and joyful spirit has left an indelible mark on so many.

Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arr. Gilbert M. Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.
— Isaac Watts

***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

The Servant Song

539 New Century Hymnal

***Benediction and Response** *Great Work Has God Begun in You*

Carol Birkland

Great work has God begun in you; take

on God's love _____ in all you

do, And may that love in you in - crease now,

with God's bless - ing, go in peace. A - men.

Postlude

Processional on "Lift High the Cross"

Donald Busarow

Leading Us in Worship

The Rev. Vanessa Rose, Pastor

The Rev. Kathy Williamson, Liturgist

Kimberly Feeney, Director of Disciple Road

Dr. Frank Martignetti, Director of Music & Organist

Chancel Choir

Deacons Heather Hodgeman and Dave Welchman

David McKinnis, Technology

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Please Hold in your Prayers:

The Tang & Lee families in the loss of Nathaniel Leavenworth Lee, son of Emily Tang-Lee and Benjamin Lee, brother of Matthew and Claire, and grandson of Madeline and James Lee. A funeral was held at First Church on Saturday, March 16.

The Studer Family in the loss of The Rev. Arlene Studer. A memorial service will be held at First Church on Saturday, March 23 at 11am.

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.



Easter Flowers

Please place Easter Flower orders with the church office.
Order forms are available in the office and in the weekly word.



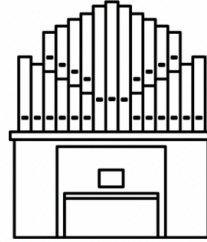
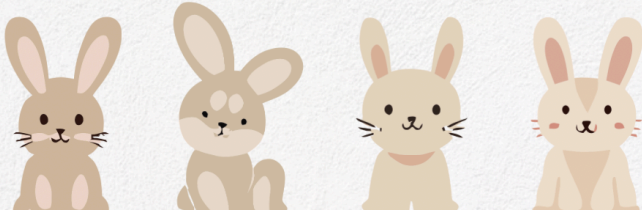
March 24th

- 8:15am: Worship
- 10:00am: Bagpipe procession from Town Hall Green to First Church Sanctuary
- 10:15am: Worship

Covenant to Care

*Provide an Easter Basket
for a child in need.*

*Sign up today in the breezeway
with Marilyn Henry.*



Lenten Organ Recital Series

Wednesday March 20th

12:15-12:45

Dr. Frank Martignetti

Luncheon to follow



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



Environmental Justice Team Meeting

The Environmental Justice Team will meet Sunday, March 17th immediately after the 10:15am service in the Spollet Chapel. The team will be making plans for Earth Care Sunday (April 28th). All are welcome to join.

For more information: Rev.Dean.Lindsey@gmail.com



Festival Choir Rehearsals

Festival Choir rehearsals for Easter Sunday (March 31) begin Thursday, March, 14 at 7:30 PM
Anyone who would like to join the Chancel Choir for our two Easter services (9:00am and 11:00am) is most welcome!

Contact Frank with questions:
fmartignetti@firstchurchfairfield.org