

January 19, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit  
NCH – New Century Hymnal (black)

PRELUDE *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J.S. Bach

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Nettleton:*  
*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
John Wyeth/arr. Gilbert Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

**All: For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!**

One: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains; your judgments are like the great deep.

**All: For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!**

One: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you and your salvation to the upright of heart!

**All: For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!**

+HYMN Great Is Your Faithfulness NCH # 423

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Lord, we need a miracle today. Like Jesus changing water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana, we need a miracle today. We are tired, Lord, of the hurts of this world. We are discouraged in the face of injustice, war, poverty, and indifference. We need a miracle today, Lord. Your steadfast love, like a mighty mountain, will not be moved. Your gifts, as many as the mighty winds, cannot be counted. Your glory, like a mighty torch, will not be put out. Lord, crown us with your love. Show us your glory, that in you we may be moved to acts of

kindness, love, justice, and mercy. Lord, we need a miracle today. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING CHRIST'S PEACE

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

ANTHEM *Within the Darkest Night*  
Derek K. Hakes/ Handbell Choir

LESSON FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-11

THE MESSAGE A Celebration Like No Other

HYMN Thank You God, for Sisters, Brothers NCH # 397

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PASTORAL PRAYER

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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY *On Eagles Wings*  
Michael Joncas/arr. Douglas Wagner

+DOXOLOGY (melody: In the Bleak Midwinter)

Praise the one creator, praise the living Christ.  
Praise the Holy Spirit, praise both day and night.  
Praise when you are weary, praise in times of joy.  
Praise my soul, with all your strength and your heart and voice.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN In the Midst of New Dimensions NCH # 391

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE *Make Us One* Carol Cymbala

POSTLUDE *Lift Up Your Voice and Sing* John G. Barr

Announcements

**Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Wallingford!** If you are visiting with us this morning, we extend a special welcome and greeting to you. First Church is a part of the United Church of Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

**The flowers** on the altar are given by all of the members of the Whitehouse family in celebration of Keith Whitehouse's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday today. The flowers on the pedestals are given in honor of Katelyn Westervelt's 27<sup>th</sup> birthday from Bob, Lorraine, and Chris Westervelt.

**Serving the church today:** Lois Doherty, Steve and Cathy Knight, Bruce and Katherine Ollodart, Ushers. Steve Knight, Liturgist. Russ Hinckley, Chimes.

**Thank you to all who came to the Kickoff Celebration as we begin celebrating our 350<sup>th</sup> year of Ministry and Mission.** A year full of exciting and meaningful events has begun. Stay tuned to the Spire and bulletin announcements to learn more. Special thanks to Debby Voelker and the Kickoff Team for creating a fun and enjoyable evening!

**As we prepare to remember the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr, tomorrow, January 20,** think about his legacy and humanity. Take the opportunity, if you are able, to offer some act of service. Make peace. Seek justice.

**Pray for our country and its leaders as a new administration begins tomorrow.**

Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor  
Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music  
Ms. Maureen Czentnar, Office Manager  
Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton/  
Ms. Maddi 391e Torre, Coordinator Sunday School  
and Youth Ministries