



First Congregational Church, UCC
of Wallingford, CT

Living Our Faith

Loving One Another

Serving the World



firstchurchwallingford.org

The Third Sunday After Epiphany at First Church Wallingford

January 22, 2023 - 10:00am

The flowers on the altar are given in honor of Katelyn Westervelt's 25th Birthday from Bob, Lorraine and Chris Westervelt.

(+ Please rise in body or in spirit)

GATHER

Prelude

Variations on an Aeolian Melody

Brenda Portman

Welcome

Centering Music

Aubade

Brenda Portman

Calling on God

One: To those who sit in darkness, light has dawned.

**All: those who dwell in gloom and despair,
God's glorious presence has appeared.**

One: God is indeed our light and our salvation.

**All: We will follow, unafraid,
where God and Jesus lead us.**

One: Let us worship our God of light and promise.

All: Let us celebrate the hope and joy of our salvation.

PRAISE

+Opening Hymn of Praise ♪NCH#66 "O Day of Radiant Gladness"

Call to Prayer and Silent Reflection

Unison Prayer of Reflection

Holy God, we come before you with awe for you are great in love and power. Some of us come with reluctance, and some with joy, some with sadness, and others full of fear, and yet we know you receive us as we are. Touch us, God, with your healing fire. Speak to us through your word. Send us back into the world renewed and eager to follow you. For we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Clearing Our Conscience With God

Silent Meditation and Prayer

Words of Assurance

The Passing of the Peace of Christ (from a distance!)

Presentation of Bibles

5th Grade Bibles

Libby Geremia
Ryan Phillips
Jeremy Phillips

Children's Bibles

Colby Bouffard
Joaquin Dougherty
Benjamin Hally

Presenters: Kayla Perkowski, Robin Davies, Amanda Nesto

LISTEN

Lesson from the Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 9:1-4

The Righteous Reign of the Coming King

9 ^[a]But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

2 ^[b]The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

3 You have multiplied exultation;^[c]
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

4 For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Anthem

Within the Darkest Night

Derek K. Hakes

Lesson from the Christian Scripture

Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee

12 Now when Jesus^[a] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. **13** He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, **14** so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

15 “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,

and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”^[b]

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People

²³ Jesus^[c] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news^[d] of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Sermon “Getting Your Feet Wet” Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers

+Hymn ♪NCH #504 “You Walk Along the Shoreline”

RESPOND and SHARE

Prayers of God’s People

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.

Presentation of Our Offerings:

Offertory Music

Deep Waters

Pepper Choplin

+Doxology

**Praise God, the source of life and birth Praise God, the Word who came to earth;
Praise God the Spirit, holy flame; All glory, honor to God's name. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

We dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, of love, of justice, and of peace. Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage so that we might follow you faithfully all our days. Amen.

RETURN

+Closing Hymn ♪NCH #532 "Come, Labor On"

+Commission and Benediction

+Response

What Does the Lord Require of You?

Jim Strathee

Postlude

The Emperor's Fanfare

Antonio Soler

The music this morning has been provided by the Chancel Choir and the Handbell Choir
under the direction of Jeanette Gross

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Serving the church this morning are Callie Shingler, Liturgist; Debbie Clark, Chimer; Holly Francke and Bill Zemina, Greeters; Matt Bushey, Jay Mather, Cheryl Naski and Matthew Wigforss Ushers; Thank you! We also offer thanks to those who prepare and serve Coffee Hour.

To reach our minister, The Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, please email pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org

You may also call or text Meredith at 914-255-1690

Our Office Manager, Maureen Czentnar, may be reached in the church office Tuesday-Friday 9-2. The office # is 203-265-1691. Maureen's NEW email is officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org

To contact our Minister of Music, Dr. Jeanette Gross, please email gross7jeanette1@gmail.com

Our Prayer List :

We continue prayers for:

Sue Phipps
Family of Gloria Stoll
Mark and Lynn Bailey (friends of John
and Sherry Perkowski
Tim Keogh
Ann Hebert (Lori Fast-Minkema's friend)
Ashley Sibley (Bernie and Tony
Annunziata's Great Niece)
Kimberly Eames-Burgett
(friend of Lori Folk-Barron)
Denise Castellano
Connie Ferrara (Sue Keogh's mom)
Robert Owens (John Bau's stepfather)
Wendy Riddle Brod (Sandy Weekes sister)
Barbara Bennett
George Churma
Cathy Kovi
Kyle Denson (family friend of Kristen Hinckley)
Sandy McCume
Betsy-Sue Eisenman
Hazel Rickes (Kristen Hinkley's grandmother)
Anne Stevens (Ken's mother)
Judy and Eric Rickes (Kristen Hinckley's parents)
Janice Frye
David Lick
Beverly Lastig

Friend diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
Ken Twomey (friend of Tony and Bernie)
Fiona Pope (Steven and Michelle Pope's
daughter, Virginia Pope's great granddaughter)
Ned Phipps (Sue Phipps husband)
Charmaine Craggs
Pam Savenelli
Hayden Steinhilper (U.S. Navy – USS
Abraham Lincoln, South China Sea)
Tom Jastermsky
Gabe and Jude Heidenis (Bernie and
Tony Annunziata's grandsons)
Jack Grotti (family friend of Sally Coleman)
Matthew Lopilato (Amanda Nesto's cousin)
Christine Castellano (Cliff's sister)
Holly Arce (Daughter in law of
Manuel Arce and Deborah Sinon)
Pete Fradiani & Tom Fedora (friends of
Megan Perkowski)
Pamela Lyons (Megan Perkowski's aunt)
Kimberly Kearney

**We continue our prayers for the people
of Ukraine and for all who are impacted by
the recent invasion. As people of faith, we ask
wisdom for leaders, courage and protection
for those under attack, and an end to all
suffering. May God's peace somehow reign,
and war be no more.**

NEW MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT FROM LORI



New Member conversations and orientations are being planned!

If you are contemplating membership in First Congregational Church, Wallingford, you are cordially and enthusiastically invited to attend a three-part series hosted by church leaders and members that will explore the history of the First Congregational Church and its connections to Congregationalism and the United Church of Christ, introduce the missions, activities and committees of the church, and review the responsibilities of church membership. Those interested in becoming members after this series will be formally welcomed during a worship service that celebrates the commitment between new members and the congregation.

The three-part series is currently planned for February 19th, March 5th, and March 19th immediately following the 10 am service.

Interested? Please contact Maureen in the church office (203-265-1691) officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org) to add your name to the list.

**At the First Congregational Church, UCC of Wallingford, CT,
we have discerned the following vision and mission
for our faith lives together:**

Vision

Our faith – rooted in the compassion and teachings of Jesus Christ – is the foundation of our love for one another and service to the world around us.

We offer a home for those seeking deeper meaning or purpose in their lives through the exploration of Jesus Christ's teachings. The love and compassion found in those teachings commit us to uplift each individual and celebrate our shared humanity.

Mission

We will foster spiritual growth, loving communication, and mutual care, thereby empowering us to confront issues that impact our community and the world, including poverty, isolation, and exclusion.

We commit to developing a nurturing environment where all are loved, valued, and inspired to meaningful participation in the life of the church. Through our Christian faith, compassion, and service, we will dedicate ourselves to making a positive impact on the lives of people in our community and beyond.



The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

23 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492

Church telephone: (203) 265-1691

Church Office Hours: Tues.– Fri. - 9:00am – 2:00pm

Email: officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org (office)

Website: www.firstchurchwallingford.org