

First Church
Middletown



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



Gathering for worship on May 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

WE ARE A MASK POSITIVE COMMUNITY
ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE SHARED FROM THE LECTERN
ONLY.

Your life and my life flow into each other as wave flows into wave,
and unless there is peace and joy and freedom for you, there can
be no real peace or joy or freedom for me.
~Frederick Beuchner

A battle lost or won is easily described, understood, and appreciated, but the moral growth of a great nation requires reflection, as well as observation, to appreciate it.

~Frederick Douglass

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Allegretto, from Sonata No. 4*
Felix Mendelssohn

*CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: In those days, says the Lord –,

All: In those days after Jesus rose from the dead, in those days when no one knew what was going on or what was going to happen next –

One: In those days God exhaled the Holy Spirit.

All: And when the disciples pushed out their fear

One: And as dancing flames heralded the arrival of something new

All: And as the birth cry was the cries of many languages, all understood –

One: In those days, the church was born, out of fear and fire,

All: With joy and awe.

One: The church was born.

All: Our church.

One: God's church.

All: Let us worship God!

*HYMN NCH 286: *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

SPIRIT

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: Come Spirit like rain, refresh, renew, revitalize.

Come Spirit like fire, embolden, enlighten, enable.

Come Spirit like a mighty wind, move, challenge, kindle.

Come Spirit like wave, move, tear down, lift up.

Come Spirit, come Breath, draw us close, make us sing.

Come Spirit, come Love, make one, make justice, make

**peace.
Come Spirit, come Kingdom, come Love.
Amen!**

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM: *Fill-a-Me Up* Pepper Choplin
The First Church Choir

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:1-21, SEE INSERT

BLESSING:

“This is the word of the Lord.”

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON: The Rev. Will Tanner

*HYMN NCH 267: Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us
EBENEZER

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY: *Andante religioso, from Sonata No. 4*
Felix Mendelssohn

***THE 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:

**All: Holy Spirit, grant us the visions and dreams to use
these gifts in your service. By your power, may their
impact multiply and flow forth from this church to
transform the world. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PASTORAL PRAYER

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father/Mother/God/Creator,
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.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen**

*HYMN NCH 591: *This Is My Song* FINLANDIA

*BENEDICTION

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you, and grant you peace. Amen

*RESPONSE

Go out into the world in peace

Have courage

Hold on to what is good

Return no one evil for evil

Strengthen the faint-hearted

Support the weak

Help the suffering

Honor all persons

Love and serve the Lord

Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen!



POSTLUDE: *Allegro maestoso e vivace, from Sonata No. 2*
Felix Mendelssohn

Today's Worship Leaders
Rev. Will Tanner, Senior Pastor; Shari Lucas, Minister of Music

JESUS DIDN'T TURN PEOPLE AWAY. .

Skeptic. Certain. Confident. Fearful. Gay.
Straight. Bi. Married. Divorced. Single.
Looking. Partnered. Female. Male.
Trans. Queer. Cis. Non-binary. Saint.
sinner. A little of both. Immigrant.
Native. Citizen. Alien. Strong. Weak.
Got-it-together. Lifelong screw-up.
Addicted. Recovering. Convicted.
Conflicted. Pacifist. Militarist. Idealist.
Realist. Long-time member. Just walked
in the door. Parent. Child. Housed.
Homeless. Believer. Questioner.
Questioning believer. Doubter. Sports
junkie. Tree hugger. Geek. Cool kid.
Loner. Rich. Poor. Just barely making it. .

NEITHER DO WE.

h/t to the Old South Church in Boston