

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

S I M S B U R Y

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!



Welcome to Worship at 10:00 a.m.

May 19, 2024

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Sunday Morning Worship
Pentecost Sunday

10:00 a.m.

Good morning and welcome to Worship at First Church, Simsbury, an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. You are invited to worship in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in relationship with God and one another. As a kindness to everyone around you, please silence all electronic devices and respect the prelude as a time for reflection. Parents are invited to escort their children to the school wing for Church School! Children return to worship during the Doxology.

*** You are invited to rise, on your feet or in your heart.**

Prelude

Rejoice, the Lord is King
Charles Wesley/John Darwall, arr. Dan Forrest

Men's Choir

We invite you to use the prelude as a time for quiet reflection

Greeting

Rev. Kevin Weikel

One: This is the day the Lord has made!

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Song of Reflection

Come and Find the Quiet Center

*Come and Find the Quiet Center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.*

Children's Message

Rev. Kevin Weikel

***Call to Worship**

by Thom M. Shuman

Carol Pollack

One: Come, Holy, Spirit, come.

All: Come and move in and through us.

One: Whispers of hope around the corner of despair;
shouts of joy at a graduation:

All: You are around us in every place.

One: The sweet breath of a baby,
the remembrances of the elderly:

All: You speak to us through every person.

One: Soft breezes on a summer's day;
bitter winds through frozen trees:

All: You are with us in every season.

One: The gentle lullabies of a parent;
the birds twittering us awake:

All: You sing glad songs to us.

One: The sudden rush of newness
throwing open our sheltered fears;
the gale of justice breaking down
the walls of oppression:

**All: You sweep us up in your commitment
to transform all lives, all places.**

One: In every breath, in every song,
in every moment, in every tongue:

All: Come, Dance, Enflame, Engulf, Transform us!

***Opening Hymn**

Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness

Pew Hymnal # 229

Unison Prayer of Confession

Rev. Kevin Weikel

Your Spirit moves over the waters, Gracious God, but we prefer to splash in the puddles of temptation. You would breathe life into us in every moment, but we hold our breath until we turn blue, wanting to get our way. You would give us the words to bring hope to the despairing, to offer healing to the broken, and to share hope in the places of anger and violence, but we turn them in accusations towards those around us. In your mercy, forgive us, God of gusty grace. May your Spirit sing in our hearts, so we may invite others to dance in joy with us. May your Spirit be the still, small voice which silences the shouts of fear and worry all around us. May your Spirit sweep us off our feet and into the arms of Jesus Christ, our Brother, our Savior, our Companion. Amen.

Silence is Kept

*Let us keep silence, for our silent sins, our quiet acts of ignorance,
and our indifference to the suffering around us.*

Responsive Assurance of Forgiveness and Love

One: In every breath we take, there is the Spirit;
in every word we speak, there is the Spirit;
in every heart we touch, there is the Spirit;
in every person we welcome, there is the Spirit.

All: In forgiveness, we are given the words to speak; the courage to reach out to others; the open heart to offer others, the breath of life to share with those around us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

Passing of the Peace

***Sung Response**

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.*

Anthem

*I Sing Because I'm Happy
Spiritual, arr. Rollo Dilworth*

Combined Choirs

Scripture Reading

Acts 2: 1-12

Carol Pollack

Sung Response

More Light

(sing 2 times)

*More light, more truth is breaking from Your word.
More light, more truth, Holy Spirit, help us hear what needs to be heard.*

Sermon

What Does This Mean?

Rev. Kevin Weikel

***Sermon Hymn**

O Spirit of God

Pew Hymnal #234
v. 1, 2, 3, 5

Celebrations and Concerns

Rev. Kevin Weikel

One: The Lord be with you
All: **And also with you.**

Prayers of the 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sung Response

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
Lord, listen to Your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to Your children praying, Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Announcements

Rev. Kevin Weikel

Call to Offering

Invitation

Offertory Anthem

Aint No Grave Can Hold My Body Down
Spiritual, arr. Paul Caldwell/Sean Ivory

Women’s Praise Choir

***Sung Response**

Doxology
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, you heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn**

Come Teach Us, Spirit of Our God

Pew Hymnal #226

Benediction

Rev. Kevin Weikel

Postlude

Mark Mercier

Lead Usher: Meredith Barrows

Music: Used by permission—CCLI#1603486

THE FIRST CHURCH of CHRIST, SIMSBURY

Rev. George Harris

Senior Minister

Mark Mercier

Director of Music Ministries

Tammy Forner

Administrative Assistant

Ardell McGee

Facilities Manager

Rev. Kevin Weikel

Senior Associate Minister

Shannon Lindsay

Church Administrator

Judi Sedor

Financial Assistant