

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost
October 27, 2024

Prelude

Nenad Iovic

Welcome

Deacon Kathleen Foster

Announcements

***Call to Worship** *Psalm 34*

Leader: I will bless the Lord at all times;

People: We will bless our God at all times.

Leader: I will praise the Holy One with my voice.

People: Let us exalt God's name together.

Leader: We are seeking,

People: And God will answer us.

Leader: We cry out for help,

People: And God will deliver us.

Leader: God will deliver us from our fears.

People: God will hear us and save us.

Leader: So come now, let us worship together.

People: Let us taste and see that our God is good.

Kids Church Children are welcome to meet in the entrance area of the sanctuary for Kids Church in the Parish House.

Nicole Giannetta
& Anna Haep

***Gathering Hymn** *Through All the Changing Scenes* Red Hymnal # 81

Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still my heart and tongue employ.

Oh magnify the Lord with me, with me exalt his name;
when in distress to him I called, He to my rescue came.

Oh make but trial of his love; experience will decide,
how best are they, and only they, who in his truth confide.

Fear him, ye saints, and you will then have nothing else to fear;
make you his service your delight, He'll make your wants his care.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost, the God whom we adore,
be glory as it was, is now, and shall be evermore. Amen.

***Passing the Peace**

Stewardship Testimony

Christian Corvino

Scripture *Psalms 34:1-8 & 19-22* (pg. 481 of your pew bible)

Durante Barringer

Sermon *Taste and See*

***Hymn** *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus* Black Hymnal # 122

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set all people free;
from our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;
dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.

Born all people to deliver, born a child, you came to reign!
Born to rule on earth forever, come, be known to us again.

By your own eternal Spirit, come to claim us as your own;
by your all-sufficient merit, let us share your cross and crown.

Service of Prayer

Joys and Concerns / Prayers of the People
Pastoral Prayer and Silent Prayer
Lord's Prayer (debts)

Offering

Call to Offering

Choir Anthem *Look at the World* by John Rutter

Faye Chen & Choir

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;	(or) Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;	Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;	Praise God for all that love has done;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.	Praise Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Hymn *Take my Life, God, Let It Be* #448 Black Hymnal

Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and use all its powers as you choose.
Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.
Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.
Take me now and help me be part of Christ's community.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Postlude

*Please rise in body or in spirit

Welcome Durante Barringer



FCCW's Board of Deacons actively seek to bring young voices from Andover Newton Seminary @ Yale Divinity School to its pulpit! In that spirit, join us in welcoming Durante Barringer on October 27, 2024.

Durante is a second year Master of Divinity student. He is a native of Atlanta GA but has spent most of his adult life in the northeast, including upstate NY, Boston MA, and Connecticut. Before Durante answered the call to ministry, he was a secondary history teacher in Boston for six years and a non-profit leader at his alma mater, Bard College, for two years. Most recently, this past summer he served as a ministerial intern at First Congregational Church of Atlanta with Reverend Dr. Dwight Andrews. Please join us in welcoming Durante!



We are on our way!!!

Every step a new beginning,
Every path a new adventure,
What a road we have traveled,
What a journey we are on!

Thanks for staying with us, supporting us, joining us, worshipping with us, laughing with us, being patient with us, staying for coffee hour with us. And thanks for hoping, praying and believing in us.

The First Church of Christ, Woodbridge, is growing and changing. We have new people and new programs. We have innovations and renovations happening. Our older members have a new spring in their step. It feels good to be renewed and to look forward with eagerness to what is transpiring and improving. We're glad you're here. We hope you feel the spirit.

We are asking for your pledge for 2025. Pledges help us budget for the upcoming year. Please be as generous as you have always been. Or you can be more generous if you are inspired by our enthusiasm and commitment! All pledges are used to do good works and God's work. An excellent investment!

Return your pledge cards in the envelope provided or bring them to church on November 3rd, Pledge Sunday, when we will dedicate all of our gifts. Thank you in advance, not just for your gifts but for the gift of you.

You are God's light shining!

Faithfully,

~The Stewardship Committee

HURRICANE HELENE APPEAL

As we continue to pray for and respond to those who have experienced unimaginable loss this past week, please consider a gift to the Hurricane Helene Recovery Appeal.

Your gifts matter.



FCCW is encouraging donations for hurricane relief efforts. These funds will be sent on to the United Church of Christ Disasters Ministries. The national UCC has a long history of supporting communities as they recover from disaster and their plight fades from the headlines. Together with the 570 churches in the Southern New England Conference and the 4,603 churches in the country, we can make a difference. Thank you for your support.

Checks can be made out to the church with "Hurricane Relief" in the memo.

**GIVING THANKS TOGETHER:
MUSIC & FUN**

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2024
1:30 TO 3:00 PM**

SINGING THANKS with MICHELE & PUPPET JEFFREY
SAYING THANKS with SUSAN
CRAFTS & GAMES of GRATITUDE

**PARISH HOUSE
5 MEETINGHOUSE LANE
WOODBIDGE**

**FOR MORE INFO
(203) 936-9356**

COME MEET JACKSON

Dear members and friends of First Church Woodbridge,

We are delighted to share the news that we have hired a gifted and experienced Co-Coordinator of Children's Ministry for FCCW – Nicole Giannetta. Nicole will be focused on Kids Church, bringing our children into a deeper level of faith formation, connection and community. Anna will assist in Kids Church and also continue to work with me on every family event.

Below is an introductory letter from Nicole. Please take time to read it and to welcome her at the church. Nicole began on Thursday October 10; her first Sunday was October 12!

Blessings,
Susan



Hello First Church of Christ, Woodbridge,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and share a little about my family.

My name is Nicole Giannetta and I am a full-time mom to three children who are my world. I am a part-time caretaker for a girl with special needs who I absolutely adore, and I find myself constantly being inspired by!

My daughter recently turned 16 and I have two sons who are 13 and 7. We are a very active family, almost always on the go. My sons are very active in sports and scouts, and my daughter has grown up on the back of a horse and is active in her 4H clubs with our dog, goats and is now venturing into cows! What brings us together best though is a hike in the woods, preferably exploring new spots we stumble upon.

My approach to life is very organic, from the food we eat, my plight against screens and just how and where we choose to spend our time. I am very intentional with my parenting, and I work diligently to bring my gifts to my children and all the relationships they develop. We moved to Seymour a year ago and my daughter attends the Agri-science program at Nonnewaug High School, while my middle son attends Slate School in North Haven and my youngest does a combination of a private school co-op and wilderness school through Two Coyotes. I place an immense value on my children being in the best environment that speaks to and supports who they are as individuals.

Prior to Seymour we lived in Branford for a few years, and I had the privilege of being a part of the Trinity Episcopal Church community. I worked to develop the position of Director of Children and Families Programs, and I take a lot of pride in knowing I helped to create a space of organic creativity that the families and parish grew to value very much. It is a strong belief of mine that life begins when we leave our comfort zone and that is the impact I strive to have with my own children and any children I have the privilege of developing relationships with.

While at Trinity, I ran nature-based Sunday school classes over the summer that we called “class on the grass”. I planned outreach and volunteer opportunities for our youth, many of which involved time at local nursing homes, whether it was singing, or game days, trick or treating, ice cream socials and even our first- ever talent show. We developed a kid’s choir, and a read-a-thon that helped plant trees, as well as multi-generational speed convo evenings where the kids could further develop their conversation skills with the older members of the parish. We also took part in the Tree of Hope fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House each year and then brought it full circle by making a meal at the Ronald McDonald House. We routinely helped serve dinner at our community center and made dog treats in their kitchen for our local animal shelter. I also took every opportunity I could to get everyone outside; we made garden beds, went on group hikes each season, and did farm chores at a local farm. I love nothing more than getting to see children experience something that is new to them, especially if it involves animals and the outdoors, and watching a spark ignite in them.

In addition to my position with Trinity, I have also worked in the capacity of a substitute Kindergarten teacher as well as room mom in many of my children's classrooms. I hope to add great value to the wonderful environment that is First Church of Christ Woodbridge, and I am looking forward to getting to know you and your families!

Warm regards,
Nicole