

FIRST CHURCH WEST HARTFORD

JUNE 16, 2024

PRELUDE *Lay Your Hands on Us, Lord* Joe Utterback
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot arr. Patricia Cota
The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP Beverli Christensen

One: The Lord our God is great.

All: The Lord is worthy of our praise.

One: Come, let us remember the great things God has done for us.

All: Let us not neglect to teach our children the greatness of God.

One: Let us lift up our voices in song and open our hearts in gratitude.

All: Let us greet God with our hymn of praise.

†HYMN 590 [*Kum ba Yah*](#) DESMOND

†OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, we come to worship you today with open hearts and open minds. We want to hear and receive what you have to say to us in this service. Speak to us today as you spoke to those who went before us. Tell us the stories of your wonders and greatness. Remind us once again of your grace and your love. Help us teach your goodness to our children and the next generation. Amen.

ANTHEM *A Little Talk With Jesus Makes It Right* arr. Patricia Cota
The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING [Psalm 78:1-8](#) (OT p. 661)

READING General Order #3 Miles Lawrence

The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freedmen are advised to remain quietly at their present homes and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.

†RESPONSE 263 WOLFE

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

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SERMON *Then, Thenceforward, and Forever Free* Rev. Fredd

HYMN 663 [Go Down, Moses](#) GO DOWN MOSES

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Freedom Trilogy* Paul Halley
The First Church Choir, Theresa Thomason, guest soloist

†DOXOLOGY
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O Lord Jesus Christ, help the church be able to see and describe itself as the source of freedom and power, so that it can communicate with the world and participate in the revolutionary changes that are taking place. And help it to find the joy that comes through involvement, with your help, in making all persons free. Amen.

†HYMN 633 [Lead On, O Cloud of Presence](#) LANCASHIRE

READING Emancipation Proclamation (excerpt) Ray Epps

That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Hold to God's Unchanging Hand* arr. Paul Halley

The First Church Choir, Theresa Thomason, guest soloist
Miles Lawrence, bass, Andrew Thomson, percussion



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Juneteenth Sunday

June 16, 2024
10 o'clock

First Church of Christ Congregational
12 South Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06107
(860) 233-9605
www.whfirstchurch.org

To Give Online: <http://www.whfirstchurch.org/giving/give>
Or Give by Text: Text *GIVE* to (860) 222-7870.

Rev. Fredd Ward, Senior Pastor
Jim Boratko, Director of Worship Arts
Amanda Bethune, Director of Faith Formation

† *Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!