

FIRST CHURCH WEST HARTFORD

JUNE 23, 2024

PRELUDE *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child* Joe Utterback
Children of the Heavenly Father Fred B. Binckes

WELCOME Rev. Fredd

†CALL TO WORSHIP Ray Epps

One: We are all members of Christ's body -- faithful people of every color, gender, class, sexual orientation, age, and ability -- gathered to love and serve God.

All: We are an Open and Affirming church! We believe that love is louder than hate!

One: There is a place in God's heart, there is a place at Christ's table, there is a place here and in every welcoming church for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Straight people!

All: Christ who gathers us, challenges us to follow in the ways of love and justice.

One: May our hearts be open to the Spirit's leading in our worship and our living, today and every day.

All: Together, let us worship God and rejoice in the good news which we celebrate this day – there is one body and one Spirit!

†HYMN 494 [They'll Know We Are Christians](#) ST.BRENDAN'S

†OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, where hatred roars, we will sing of love. Where fear stalks, we will stand with courage. Where bigotry rages, we will promote peace. Where injury occurs, we will extend kindness and comfort. Where oppression persists, we will work for change. Now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Amanda Bethune

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING [Ephesians 4:1-6](#) (NT p. 236)

†RESPONSE AFTER SCRIPTURE 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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REFLECTION Jim Warner

ANTHEM *One Faith, One Hope, One Lord* Craig Courtney
The First Church Choir

REFLECTION Eleanor Wight

HYMN 589 [Lord, I Want to Be a Christian](#) I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

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 *His Love Never Fails* Craig Courtney

†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

We are always rejoicing, Generous God, for the great gifts and small graces that you pour into our lives. Even when we're running on empty, you make us feel as if we have everything. May these offerings usher peace into our world, that all may know your extravagant love and your endless mercy. Amen.

REFLECTION

Nina Lawrence

†HYMN 677

[Let There Be Peace on Earth](#)

WORLD PEACE

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Near to the Heart of God
The First Church Choir

MCAFEE

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Jaak Lemmens



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Pride Sunday

June 23, 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!