

**FIRST CHURCH WEST HARTFORD**

**OCTOBER 20, 2024**

PRELUDE *Wenn dich Unglück tut greifen an* J. S. Bach  
(*When Misfortune Comes Upon Us*)  
*Steal Away to Jesus* arr. Patricia Cota  
The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP Ray Epps  
One: Come to experience the presence of God.  
**All: God is always available to us, even when God is silent.**  
One: Come to sing praises to God.  
**All: God deserves our devotion, even when God is silent.**  
One: Come to offer prayers to God.  
**All: God always answers us, even when God is silent!**

†HYMN 502 [\*Come, You Disconsolate\*](#) CONSOLATOR

†OPENING PRAYER  
**Loving God, listen to your children praying. You know that we sometimes feel forsaken and forgotten. We cry out and receive no audible answers. We are tempted to turn inward or to turn away from you. Help us to trust. Help us to remember your unfailing mercy. Help us to believe in the silence. Loving God, listen to your children praying. Send us love, send us power, send us grace. Amen.**

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM *Little David Play on Your Harp* arr. Patricia Cota  
The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING [\*Psalm 22:1-5\*](#)  
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?  
My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.  
In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.  
To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.  
-Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®

†RESPONSE AFTER SCRIPTURE TRENTHAM  
**Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.**

SERMON *When God Is Silent...Believe in the Silence* Rev. Fredd

HYMN 627 [\*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me\*](#) SOJOURNER

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 *Even when God Is Silent* Sumner Jenkins  
The First Church Choir

†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  
**Giving God, thank you for the blessings you have entrusted to us. As we share a portion of what we have received, we pray that material blessings will never become the object of our affection. Keep our focus on people and spiritual principles rather than possessions. We dedicate our time, treasure, and energy to your ever-emerging kingdom of grace. Amen.**

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

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *Peace Be Upon You* PEACE  
The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE *Prelude in a Classic Style* Gordon Young



*Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All*

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**

October 20, 2024  
10 o'clock

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

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

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*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!*