

PRELUDE *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* J. S. Bach  
 ("Sleepers, wake! A voice is calling") Johann Walther

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING The Carnes Family

One: During the season of Advent, we watch and wait for the Christ's arrival. We remember that God has promised redemption to all who pursue the path of faith.

**All: This morning, we kindle the flame of hope to remind us to inspire hope wherever we are in the world.**

[The congregation will pause to allow time for candle lighting.]

UNISON PRAYER

**Faithful God, out of darkness and despair you bring light and new life. Renew us in hope, that we may be alert to the advent of Christ's coming among us. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.**

RESPONSE (HYMN 128) *One Candle Is Lit* CRADLE SONG  
**Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,  
 our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.  
 Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.  
 One candle is lit for the hope of the age.**  
 Used with permission from CCLI, License 4720828

†CALL TO WORSHIP Jane Cave

One: As we journey through the Sundays of Advent, listen to the promises of God:

**All: a righteous branch springs forth,**

One: a promise of justice and righteousness,

**All: a promise of safety.**

One: Listen to the promise of Jesus:

**All: the kingdom of God draws near.**

One: Keep alert; watch for signs of hope.

**All: Our Advent journey begins.**

†HYMN 138 [Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn](#) REJOICE, REJOICE

†OPENING PRAYER

**Loving God, as we begin our journey through Advent, turn our hearts toward you. Guide us into your realm of peace and joy. Teach us to set aside our worries, as we walk in faithfulness and trust. May the love within us be born anew. Help us remain alert, that we may respond to pain and suffering and notice the signs of abundant life all around us. Come, Lord Jesus; come to us now, we pray. Amen.**

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING [Luke 21:25-36](#) (NT p. 104)

†RESPONSE (HYMN 134) *Emmanuel, Emmanuel* MCGEE  
**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.** Used with permission from CCLI, License 4720828

SERMON *Hope Is the Thing with Feathers* Rev. Fredd

LITANY OF HOPE Linda Bronstein  
**Congregational response: "From the River to the Sea"**

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.**

HYMN 384 [Here at Thy Table, Lord](#) BREAD OF LIFE

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending* arr. R. E. Martin  
 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

**We thank you, God, for the joy we feel this day. We are blessed by this affirming and welcoming community, this sanctuary of acceptance. We place our trust in you, knowing that you care for us. With deep gratitude for all you provide to us, we return our gifts to you. Enter into our hearts during this sacred season. Amen.**

LITANY OF CELEBRATION (INSERT)

The Spirit Team

†HYMN 136

[Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming](#)

PLEADING SAVIOR

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

*My Soul Gives Glory to My God*  
The First Church Choir

MORNING SONG

POSTLUDE

*Allegro, from the Concerto No. 1*

G. F. Handel

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.

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

*Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!*