FIRST CHURCH WEST HARTFORD

JANUARY 12, 2025

PRELUDE Meditation on "Heavenly Dove"

Gilbert Martin

Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend

Georg Bohm

("Lord Jesus Christ, be present now")

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP Jimmy Quinn

One: Come to the waters.

All: We gather at the river's edge.

One: Come to the waters.

All: We wade into the presence of God.

One: Come to the waters.

All: We are washed in God's love.

One: Come to the waters.

All: We are God's beloved community!

†HYMN 253 Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness PLEADING SAVIOR

†OPENING PRAYER

God of strength, God of love, surround us with your love. Gather us in as your beloved children. Open our ears to hear your voice. Open our hearts to the power of your transforming love. May the waters of grace pour over us, renewing us to carry out your work in the world. Bless us during this hour of prayer and praise. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM Down to the River to Pray arr. Robert Lee

The First Church Choir

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING <u>Luke 3:15-17, 21-22</u> (NT p. 73)

†RESPONSE (HYMN 261)

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord; there are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

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SERMON

Charting a Path of Love: A New Year's Reflection

Janice Olson

HYMN 545

<u>He Leadeth Me</u>

HE LEADETH ME

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

Despite the troubles and trials of life, we live in security because God cares for us. Let us give with joy, serving Jesus Christ, who was baptized by John and blessed by God.

OFFERTORY

Blowin' in the Wind

Bob Dylan, arr. Mac Huff

†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

Loving God, just as you blessed Jesus after his baptism, you bless us with your love. You know us personally. We live in confidence and trust, knowing that you will never forsake us. We bring these gifts to you, praying that they will bless the world. Use them, we pray, that others may know freedom from fear. Amen.

†HYMN 622

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

The First Church Choir

CWM RHONDDA

DENNIS

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE Blest Be the Tie that Binds

POSTLUDE Agincourt Hymn

John Dunstable

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Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025 10 o'clock

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