

PRELUDE *Theme from the New World Symphony* Anton Dvorak
Balm in Gilead Spiritual, arr. Patricia Cota
 The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP Bob Calef

One: If you can't be a towering pine on the top of the hill,

All: Be a small spruce in the valley – but be.

One: Be the best little shrub by the side of the hill,

All: Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

One: If you can't be a highway, just be a trail.

All: If you can't be the sun, be a star.

One: It isn't by size that you win or fail.

All: Be the best of whatever you are!

†HYMN 578 [I Need Thee Every Hour](#) NEED

†OPENING PRAYER

Faithful God, we come to you in our different states of mind – different shapes, shades, and sizes. Some of us come after wandering in the wilderness. Some of us have never strayed from the path. Whoever we are and wherever we are along life's journey, welcome us with your love. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we might sense your presence in our lives. In joyous gratitude, we pray. Amen.

INVITATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

ANTHEM *What Child is This?* GREENSLEEVES
 The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director
 Jim Boratko, piano

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING [1 Corinthians 12:4-11](#) (NT p. 212)

†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 *In Memory of Martin: Be the Best of Whatever You Are* Rev. Fredd

HYMN 628 [Precious Lord, Take My Hand](#) PRECIOUS LORD

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

As we offer our material gifts, let's also reflect and rejoice in the time, the many talents, and the variety of spiritual gifts with which we are blessed. Let us share abundantly from every aspect of our lives.

OFFERTORY *Soon-Ah Will Be Done** arr. William L. Dawson
 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
God of steadfast love and faithfulness, thank you for the great gift of your love. Thank you, this day and every day, for the many blessings you bestow. Help us share as generously with others as you have shared with us, so that your love might be known throughout all the world. Amen.

BENEDICTION

†HYMN 442

[We Are Walking in the Light of God](#)

SIYAHAMBA

**We are walking in the light of God
Siyahamba ekukhaneyn' kwe khos'
We are walking in the light of God**

POSTLUDE

*Woke Up This Morning**

Spiritual

*As a congregation, we've made a covenant that when we use a spiritual in worship we ask for donations for our Royalties for Spirituals project. Please consider making a donation using the envelopes in the pew or online specifying Royalties for Spirituals. All donations received are provided to the Artists' Collective in Hartford to further their efforts to instruct Hartford's youth in the culture of the African Diaspora.



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

January 19, 2025
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!