

PRELUDE *Christus, der ist mein Leben* J. A. Streicher
Invocation in Bb Alexandre Guilmant

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP Jane Cave

One: Let the ears of all people be attentive; the heavens are telling the glory of God.

All: Everything around us proclaims God's handiwork. Day and night, God's power is moving in our midst.

One: We are drawn together into one body, the church.

All: As we commune with God, we understand that every part of the body matters.

One: If one member suffers, all suffer together.

All: If one member is honored, all rejoice together!

†HYMN 6 [Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above](#) MIT FREUDEN ZART

†OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we come together to make sense of our lives and the world. We turn to scripture as a source of understanding. Open our minds and stir our souls that we might rejoice in your presence. Enlighten us with your truth. Help us to rise above the limits of our individual concerns. Help us respond to the broader concerns of all humanity. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O God, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM *Silver and Gold* Kirk Franklin
 The First Church Choir, Maria Soaft, soloist

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING [1 Corinthians 12:12-26](#) (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.

SERMON *Different Doesn't Mean Deficient* Rev. Fredd

HYMN 381 [Take My Gifts](#) TALAVERA TERRACE

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

We are part of the body of Christ which extends around the world. Like pieces of an intricate puzzle – indispensable and valuable -- we form a caring community. Let us give with gratitude for the blessings of unity and diversity.

OFFERTORY *The Heavens Declare* Franz Joseph Haydn
 The First Church Choir, Ashley Turner, Michael Loveland, Bob Ball, soloists

†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

Maker of all creation, Caretaker of our future, thank you for your saving love. May the gifts we bring honor the many ways you bless this local church and the worldwide fellowship of faithful followers. May our offerings reflect our commitment to lead lives of love and to advance the ministry of Jesus. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

†HYMN 614 [I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me](#) I'M GONNA LIVE

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* DENNIS
 The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE *Psalms 19: The Heavens Declare* Benedetto Marcello



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 26, 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!