

PRELUDE *Benedictus* Gabriel Fauré
Larghetto Wolfgang A. Mozart

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP Abigail Mitchell

One: Come, people of God, to the One in whom we trust.

All: Praise God who reaches out to us and rescues us.

One: God is our refuge, our strong fortress.

All: God saves us amid much worldly chaos and confusion.

One: God gives us work to do and the strength to do it.

All: Without love we cannot do anything!

†HYMN 386 [We Come as Guests Invited](#) WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

†OPENING PRAYER

God of love and life, speak to our hearts this day. Speak words of wisdom and faith. Open our hearts and minds to perceive Paul's message about love, though we cannot respond to it perfectly. Strengthen our faith to answer your call, even when we don't feel completely capable. Be our anchor and our mainsail, that we may bless the world with our many and varied gifts. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING [1 Corinthians 13:1-13](#) (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.

Words and Music - ©1962, 1990 Manna Music.
Used with permission from OneLicense.net, License #A-726915

SERMON *What Happens Without Love* Rev. Fredd

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.

HYMN 526 [The Gift of Love](#) GIFT OF LOVE

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

CALL TO OFFERING

May we bear all things, believe all things, hope and endure all things so that the world might know the loving touch of God's hand.

OFFERTORY *Tantum Ergo* Thomas Pavlechko
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

Bless these gifts, O God, with your grounding presence and your guiding power. May our offerings support the ministries of this church and serve as symbols of your love for the whole wide world. Amen.

†HYMN 270 [Of All the Spirit's Gifts to Me](#) ALMSGIVING

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

POSTLUDE *Scherzo* Eugene Gigout



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 2, 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!