



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 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>

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

PRELUDES *Threnodi for Clarinet and Organ* Frederik Magle
 Chadwick Thomas, Clarinet
O Sacred Head, Now Wounded PASSION CHORALE Arr. by Jason W. Krug
 The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

JIMMY QUINN

One: God, our strong salvation, calls us to worship.

All: **We gather in faith, even with our misgivings and questions.**

One: Come! Seek the face of God.

All: **God's face shines upon us with grace and mercy.**

One: Be assured, beloved, the presence of the Lord is in this place.

All: **We give thanks for the many blessings God bestows.**

†HYMN 24

[*The God of Abraham Praise*](#)

LEONI

†OPENING PRAYER

God, our comforter and protector, we often feel scattered and lost, separated from you and from one another. Gather us in. Hear our supplications and dispel our fears. Redirect our wayward feet and fortify our faith, that we might hear your voice, trust your promises, and stand firm in your ways. In your light and love, we pray. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM

Ah, Holy Jesus HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Arr. by Jason W. Krug

The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

[Psalm 27:1-8 \(OT p. 619-620\)](#)

†RESPONSE (HYMN 264)

[Where the Spirit of the Lord Is](#)

ADAMS

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is peace. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is love. There is comfort in life's darkest hour, there is light and life, there is help and power in the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Seeking from Scratch: God is _____.

Rev. Fredd

HYMN 33

[How Great Thou Art](#)

O STORE GUD

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

Whether we offer coins, or checks, or electronic donations, our gifts honor and bless God. Thus, may we share our treasure as generously with God as God has poured favor upon us.

OFFERTORY

God Is My Strong Salvation

Richard Shephard

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

Loving God, it is a joy to present our offerings because we are blessed in our giving as we have been in receiving abundant goodness from your hand. Keep us from building up systems and structures that block our spontaneous response to your love. Amen.

†HYMN 633

[Lead On, O Cloud of Presence](#)

LANCASHIRE

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Amen

The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE

Toccata in E Minor

Johann Pachelbel

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!