



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 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 *Fantasy in C Major* Ceasar Franck
Improvisation on "Adoro Te" Leon Boellmann

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP BOB CALEF

One: Come, all who seek strength and vitality.

All: Our souls thirst and our flesh faints for nourishment.

One: Come, behold God's presence and power.

All: God's steadfast love is better than life.

One: Sing for joy in the shadow of God's wings.

All: We have come to praise the living God.

†HYMN 502 [*Come, You Disconsolate*](#) CONSOLATOR

†OPENING PRAYER

Lord of overflowing abundance, we praise you with joyful lips and bless you with uplifted hands. When our spirits are starved, you satisfy our hunger. When anxiety postpones our progress, you see us through. Guard us when we defend righteous causes and save us from every temptation, that we may be willing followers of Jesus, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM *How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place* Johannes Brahms
The First Church Choir

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING [*Psalm 63:1-7 \(OT p. 648\)*](#)

†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 *The Need for Speed* Rev. Fredd

HYMN 501 [*There Is a Balm in Gilead*](#) BALM IN GILEAD

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

God offers us a way of life and love that satisfies. What we cannot purchase, God freely gives us. Our offerings are one way of expressing our gratitude.

OFFERTORY *O For a Closer Walk with God* C. V. Stanford
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, you have set the table before us and blessed us abundantly. In gratitude for your kindness and mercy, receive our gifts and our offerings. Accept our hearts into your safekeeping, that our lives may bear good fruit. Amen.

†HYMN 557 [*Just a Closer Walk with Thee*](#) CLOSER WALK

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *Amen*
The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE *Gothic Toccata* Dennis Eliot

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!