



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 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

PRELUDE *Just As I Am* David Hegarty
O Lamm Gottes unschuldig ("O Lamb of God, Without Guilt") J. S. Bach

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP Eric Malley

One: We are a new creation in Christ Jesus.

All: **The last has passed away, the latest has come.**

One: This is a day for forgiveness and reconciliation.

All: **We've come to celebrate God's love for the lost who are found.**

One: Let all who are faithful offer glad cries of deliverance.

All: **We've come to honor God with our prayers and praise.**

†HYMN 73 [*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*](#) WELLESLEY

†OPENING PRAYER

Father-Mother God, welcome us home when we wander afar. Restore us with your compassion and love. Transform us with your miraculous grace, that we might become the new creations you envision us to be. Strengthen us with the power of your Holy Spirit, that we might offer others the same forgiveness that you have offered us. In your blessed name, we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Michael Anthony Kolakowski III
 Child of Dana Kolakowski and Michael Kolakowski, Jr.

INVITATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

ANTHEM *The Lamb* John Taverner
 The First Church Choir

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READINGS [Luke 15:1-3, 11b-24 \(NIV\)\(NT p.95-96\)](#)

†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 Foundation of Forgiveness* Reverend Fredd Ward

HYMN #340 [*Softly and Tenderly*](#) THOMPSON

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

In gratitude for all that God has done for us and as faithful followers of Jesus, let us share our gifts for the benefit of God's world.

OFFERTORY *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* Nancy Wertsch
 The First Church Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, soloist

†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

With glad hearts, we offer these gifts to you, O God. Transform them by the power of your Holy Spirit, that these they may bring forth new life. May our offerings touch and transform the lives of others nearby and far away. Amen.

†HYMN 339 [*Just as I Am, Without One Plea*](#) WOODWORTH

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *Amen*
 The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE *Toccata in D Minor, BWV 538, "Dorian"* J. S. Bach

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!