## †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.

## †Offertory Prayer

Christ Jesus, you chose a path of suffering to save us in our suffering. Use our lives to bring hope and compassion to those who weep, that they may know your healing power. Use our gifts to bring joy to those who weep with bitter tears. Amen.

†Hymn 75 <u>I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry</u> WATERLIFE

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE Amen

The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE Fugue in G Minor, BWV 578 J. S. Bach

First Church of Christ Congregational 12 South Main Street West Hartford, CT 06107 (860) 233-9605 www.whfirstchurch.org

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Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

# SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE Confirmation Sunday

April 6, 2025 10 o'clock

Rev. Fredd Ward, Senior Pastor Jim Boratko, Director of Worship Arts Amanda Bethune, Director of Faith Formation FIRST CHURCH WEST HARTFORD APRIL 6, 2025

PRELUDES I Stand at the Threshold J. S. Bach

God's Time Is the Best J. S. Bach

WELCOME

†Call to Worship Jane Cave

One: Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find."

Many: Jesus also said, "...knock, and the door will be opened for you."

One: Everyone who asks receives.

Many: Everyone who searches finds.

One: Earthly parents understand how to give good gifts to their children.

Many: How much more will God give good things to those who ask!

†HYMN 354 <u>Seek Ye First</u> SEEK YE FIRST

## **†Opening Prayer**

Creator God, you know our lives completely – the times of joy and laughter and pain and struggle. You walked with our ancestors of faith into exile and then toward the Promised Land. Savior Jesus, you wept at the grave of Lazarus and then celebrated at the table with your resurrected friend. Be with us in times of plenty and want. We rejoice in your presence, for you see us and care for us. In the name of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 7:7-8 (NT p. 8)

†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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#### **ORDER FOR CONFIRMATION**

PASTORAL PREAMBLE Ask. Search. Knock. Rev. Fredd Ward

Introductions Questions

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

Presentation of Bibles Amanda Bethune

### **GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE**

In the name of Jesus, and on behalf of this local church, we extend to you the hand of Christian love. We promise you our continuing support and encouragement as we share the hopes and labors of the global church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to ask, search, and open doors together. May we go forward, learning and loving God together. Amen.

# Prayer of Confirmation 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 518 This Is a Day of New Beginnings BEGINNINGS

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

## Call to Offering

Let us share our gifts with genuine gratitude to God. Let us share our gifts with heads bowed before God and with hands outstretched to the world.

OFFERTORY Thy Matchless Love Alfred V. Fedack

The First Church Choir