

†HYMN 218

[Thine is the Glory](#)

MACCABEUS

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

*Hallelujah Chorus*

G. F. Handel

The First Church Choir, Brass, and congregation

POSTLUDE

*Toccata from the Fifth Organ Symphony*

C. M. Widor

We are pleased to have the following individuals play for our service this morning:

Donald Townswick, Trumpet

Damon Coachman, Trumpet

Matthew Carley, Horn

Chris Schrock, Trombone

David Winer, Tuba

Please consider making a donation to Music and Fine Arts to cover the costs of special musicians for our services.

First Church of Christ Congregational

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FIRST CHURCH WEST HARTFORD

APRIL 20, 2025

PRELUDE

*And the Glory of the Lord*  
Performed by the First Church Brass Quintet

G. F. Handel

*The Day of Resurrection*  
The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

HENRY T. SMART  
ARR. BY PATRICIA COTA

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Liz Oman-Wilfred

One: This is the day that the Lord has made.

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

One: This is the day of resurrection.

**All: Let us come together and celebrate!**

One: See the tomb is empty where Jesus lay.

**All: He is not here! He is risen!**

One: This is Easter Sunday.

**All: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

†HYMN #216

[\*Christ the Lord is Risen Today\*](#)

EASTER HYMN

†OPENING PRAYER

God of life and love, we are eager to hear the good news of new life. Enter our lives and allow us to cast aside our fears. Lead us on a journey from grief and despair to hope and joy. We are ready to celebrate and give thanks for your transforming love. Give us Easter attitudes and hopeful hearts to rejoice in the glory of this day! Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM

*Jesus Christ is Risen Today*  
The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director  
Lisa Abel, piano

LLANFAIR arr. Lloyd Larson

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

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

[\*Luke 24:1-24\*](#)(NT p. 109-110)

†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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SERMON

*He Is Not Here!*

Rev. Fredd Ward

HYMN 234

[\*Crown Him with Many Crowns\*](#)

DIADEMATA

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’s faithful love endures forever! Let us give thanks through our gifts! Let us rejoice in returning to God what we have already received!**

OFFERTORY

*He Is Not Here!*  
The First Church Choir, Brass Quintet

Russell Nagy

†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

**God of life and love, we are grateful for your promise of resurrection and new life. Your love is stronger than the powers of darkness and injustice. With joy, we offer our gifts to you. Use them and use our lives to proclaim Christ’s triumph over death. Amen.**

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!