

First Church's worship services are live streamed every Sunday downstairs in our church library, the John P. Webster Library. Watch church while your toddler plays in our children's area or if you need a separate place to worship for any other reason.

First Church of Christ Congregational
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To Give Online: <http://www.whfirstchurch.org/giving/give>



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 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

MAY 11, 2025

PRELUDES

Sheep May Safely Graze
My Sheep Hear My Voice

J. S. Bach
Dennis Elliot

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Court Lewis

One: Despite dangers, and difficulties, our God watches over us,
All: as a mama bear watches over her cubs.
One: Our Lord walks with us,
All: as a caring companion offers good company.
One: Our Savior makes us lie down in green pastures,
All: as a shepherd looks after the flock.

†HYMN 280

God Is Here!

ABBOT’S LEIGH

†OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, pour out your anointing power during this time of worship. Help us receive your wisdom and respond by living faithfully and following Jesus closely. Walk with us and grant us the gift of your guiding presence, both now and forevermore. Amen.

INVITATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM

Psalm 23
The First Church Choir

Kaye Saunders

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23 (OT p. 617)

†RESPONSE (HYMN 263)

Surely the Presence of the Lord

WOLFE

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can fell his mighty power and his grace. I can hear the brush of angels’ wings, I see glory on each face; surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

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

SERMON

What’s Annoying Can Also Be Anointing

Rev. Fredd Ward

HYMN 80

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

RESIGNATION

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

As we present our morning offerings, may God open our hearts and touch our lives with gratitude and generosity.

OFFERTORY

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter
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.

†OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, we dedicate these gifts and offerings into your service. May our generosity flow abundantly into a world in need of your transforming love. In your loving name, we pray. Amen.

†HYMN 686

Of Women, and of Women’s Hopes We Sing

SURSUM CORDA

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Amen, Alleluia

John L. Bell
The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE

Gott des Himmels und der Erden

Johann Walther
"God Who Made Earth and Heaven"

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!