

†HYMN 633

[Lead On, O Cloud of Presence](#)

SURSUM CORDA

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Amen, Alleluia
The First Church Choir

John L. Bell

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C Major, BWV 564

J. S. Bach



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 2025
10 o'clock

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

Rev. Fredd Ward, Senior Pastor
Jim Boratko, Director of Worship Arts
Amanda Bethune, Director of Faith Formation

To Give Online: <http://www.whfirstchurch.org/giving/give>

PRELUDES

Preamble

Title

Louis Vierne

Composer

The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Doey Barnett

One: The One who loves us unconditionally calls us here

All: **We are one in the Spirit.**

One: The One who loves us completely welcomes us home.

All: **We are one in the Lord.**

One: The One who loves us endlessly rejoices in our presence.

All: **The world will know we are Christians by our love.**

†HYMN 494

[They'll Know We Are Christians](#)

ABBOT'S LEIGH

†OPENING PRAYER

Teach our hearts to love, O God, as you would have us to love. Train our eyes to see, Holy One, as you would have us see. For we yearn to love without prejudice and accept others without judgement. Make your home among us, for we long to be made one and whole. Amen.

INVITATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM

Title

Composer

The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

[John 13:31-34](#)

†RESPONSE (HYMN 263)

[Surely the Presence of the Lord](#)

WOLFE

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel 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

Practicing Presence to Find Our Purpose

Janice Olson

HYMN 499

[When Love Is Found](#)

O WALY WALY

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

This is the time to offer our time and talent as well as our monetary support, that God's plans and purposes may be realized among us.

OFFERTORY

Ubi Caritas

The First Church Choir

Paul Halley

Ubi caritas et amor Deus ibi est.

Where there is charity and love, God is there.

Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.

The love of Christ has gathered us together.

Oba ye, Oba yo batala.

Praises to Obatala, ruler of the Heavens.

Oba ye, Oba yo O batala.

Praises to Yemenja, ruler of the waters of life.

Oba ye, Oba yo Yemanja.

Praises to Ra and Ausar, rulers of the light and the resurrected soul.

Oba ye, Oba yo O Ra ausar.

†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 presence, you promise us a life of blessed abundance, if only we would learn to love, as you have first loved us. May the gifts we bring before you this day serve as symbols of our commitment to love one another well. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!