

†HYMN 431

[Go, My Children, with My Blessing](#)

AR HYD Y NOS

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Amen, Alleluia

John L. Bell

The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE

Alle Menschen müssen sterben

Johann Pachelbel

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>



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 25, 2025
10 o'clock

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

PRELUDES

Alle Menschen müssen sterben
("All men living are but mortal")
Chant de Paix

J. S. Bach

Jean Langlais

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Jimmy Quinn

One: Even when our faith falters,
Many: **we will not let you go, O God.**
One: Even when doubts and anxieties arise,
Many: **we will not let you go.**
One: Because you match our needs with your miraculous power,
Many: **we will not let you go.**
One: We need your presence now more than ever.
Many: **We will not let you go, O God. We will worship you with our whole hearts!**

†HYMN 709

[Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken](#)

AUSTRIAN HYMN

†OPENING PRAYER

God of miracles and mystery, you struggle with us when we’re weary. You meet us in our weakness. In times of scarcity, and when hunger overwhelms, you find ways to feed us. When we face overwhelming odds and the temptation to turn around arises, you open new avenues of faithful living. Stay with us, O God, and bless our struggles, that we might be a blessing for others in need. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM

Never Weather-beaten Sail
The First Church Choir

Charles Wood

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

[Matthew 14:13-21](#)

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

†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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SERMON

Food for Thousands: Scarcity to Security

Rev. Fredd Ward

HYMN 453

[Called as Partners in Christ’s Service](#)

BEECHER

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

Faced with a hungry crowd and minimal provisions, Jesus fed the multitude until all were satisfied. Faced with a hungry world, God invites us to offer our gifts, that our neighbors in need may know God’s love.

OFFERTORY

Onward, Ye Peoples
The First Church Choir

Jean Sibelius

†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

O God, may our gifts become loaves and fish for those who hunger. May our offerings become love and light for those who are alone and afraid. Bless our ministries, that we may share our abundance with those who have less. In our serving and sacrificing, may the world be made whole. Amen.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!