



*Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All*

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

August 3, 2025  
10 o'clock

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

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

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.

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

FIRST CHURCH WEST HARTFORD

AUGUST 3, 2025

PRELUDE

Bayou Home

William Grant Still, arr. Alexa Still

Michael Loveland, oboe & Lisa Abel, piano

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Doey Barnett

One: Give thanks to our God,

Many: for God’s steadfast love lasts forever.

One: God is present wherever we are on life’s journey,

Many: and here at the threshold of worship.

One: Give thanks to our God,

Many: for God’s steadfast love abides with us always.

One: Let us set our minds on the things that are above,

Many: not on the things that are on earth.

†HYMN 687

[In Christ There Is No East or West](#)

ST. PETER

†OPENING PRAYER

Spirit of new life, if there is any slumber in our spirit, awaken us with the power of your presence. Cover us with the clothing of your wisdom and grace. As your loving light illuminates the horizon on this day, help us see the many blessings of your realm. Nourish us with heavenly food and guide us with your hope, for we hunger to know you better. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Amanda Bethune

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

[Colossians 3:1-10 \(NT p.246\)](#)

†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

*Clothed in Christ: Level Up Your Look*

Rev. Fredd Ward

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.

HYMN 385

[An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare](#)

O WALY WALY

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC

*As the Deer with Fairest Lord Jesus*

Martin Nystrom, arr. Mark Hayes

Lisa Abel, piano

CALL TO OFFERING

As we continually set our minds on the things above, let us utilize our gifts, not only for ourselves, but to build the beloved community here on earth.

OFFERTORY

*Reverie*

Claude DeBussy, arr. Jolles/Lucarelli

Michael Loveland, oboe & Lisa Abel, piano

†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, wonderful are your works that we know so well. Today we come before you, returning thanks in the form of our varied blessings: treasure, time, and talents. May our giving reflect the faithfulness of our spirits. May our offering be clothed with Christ’s love for humanity. Amen.

†HYMN 622

[Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah](#)

CWM RHONDDA

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*This is the Day*

Les Garrett, arr. Mark Hayes

Lisa Abel, piano

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!