



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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

August 10, 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>

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

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.

PRELUDE

Aurelia

Samuel S. Wesley, arr. Mark Kellner  
Charlie Goodwin, trumpet; Lisa Abel, horn; Bob Ball, trombone

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Jimmy Quinn

One: Praise God for things seen:  
Many: **for the sights of this season – beach sand and seashells.**  
One: Praise God for things hoped for:  
Many: **for rest and relaxation and restored spirits.**  
One: Praise God for things not seen:  
Many: **for unimaginable blessings and seemingly impossible outcomes.**  
One: Praise God for the faith of our ancestors and predecessors.  
Many: **Praise God for the gift of our personal, present-day faith!**

†HYMN 481

[I Sing a Song of the Saints of God](#)

GRAND ISLE  
See insert – hymn from old Pilgrim Hymnal

†OPENING PRAYER

Creator God – maker of the skies and stars and seashores – reveal your word to us this day in which all things were made. Redeemer God, light our lamps this day, dress us for action, and open the doors of our hearts and minds. Sustainer God, renew in us the faith of our ancestors, that we might claim it as our own in continuing covenant with you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM

Forest Green

English Melody; harm. R.V. Williams, arr. John Innes  
Charlie Goodwin, trumpet; Lisa Abel, horn; Bob Ball, trombone

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

[Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12 \(NT p.273\)](#)

†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

What You Can’t See Yet Is What You Get

Rev. Fredd Ward

HYMN 708

[My Lord, What a Morning](#)

BURLEIGH

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

The spirit of generosity draws us into life-giving relationships with God and with God’s people in ways that we can’t perceive or predict. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

OFFERTORY

I Love Thee

Adoniram J. Gordon, arr. Barbara Broome  
Linda Bronstein & Michael Loveland, bells; 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

Transform these gifts, O God, into vessels of your love and mercy. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may this morning’s offering represent treasure from above. May these gifts bring joy and justice to your children everywhere. Amen.

†HYMN 439

[God, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing](#)

SICILIAN MARINERS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Doxology

attri. Louis Bourgeois, arr. Mark Hayes  
Lisa Abel, piano

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!