



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025
10 o'clock

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

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

PRELUDE

Meditation from Thaïs

Jules Massenet

River Lee, violin

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Elizabeth Oman-Wilfrid

One: God is our fortress and our rock of refuge.

Many: God saves us from dangers and disasters.

One: God delivers us from hostility and enmity.

Many: Christ heals us from debilitating spirits.

One: The Holy Spirit lifts our burdens and sets us free.

Many: We’ve come to worship the Source of our strength.

†HYMN 25

[Praise to the Lord, the Almighty](#)

LOBE DEN HERREN

†OPENING PRAYER

God our Healer, we have been battered and bruised along life’s journey.
Help us find wholeness, O God, and equip us to extend your healing touch
with the world. Free us from the demons that shackle our spirits and set us
free from the chains that bind us. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM

Balm in Gilead

SPIRITUAL

The Bass Clef Choir

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

[Luke 13:10-17 \(NT p.92-93\)](#)

†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

On Being Bent Out of Shape

Rev. Fredd Ward

HYMN 503

[O Christ, the Healer](#)

ROCKINGHAM

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

Our gifts reach where we cannot go. They witness to people we may never
meet. Let us give thanks as we share a prayerful portion of what we have
first received from God.

OFFERTORY

Simple Gifts

arr. Mark Schweizer

The Bass Clef 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

God of mercy and might, in times of trial, you are our fortress and our refuge.
With gratitude and praise for your wonderful gifts, we offer you our gifts and our
very lives. We do so trusting that others might know the strength of your
healing and sustaining power. Amen.

†HYMN 73

[There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy](#)

WELLESLEY

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lobe den Herren

Johann Walther

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!