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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.



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025
10 o'clock

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

FIRST CHURCH WEST HARTFORD

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

PRELUDE

Variations on a Sunday School Tune
("Shall We Gather at the River?")
Chorale Prelude on "ELLACOMBE"

Virgil Thomson

Donald Busarow

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Doey Barnett

One: Search for the Lord each day.
Many: God waits in plain sight and where we least expect.
One: Search for the balm in Gilead.
Many: God provides help and healing to meet our many needs.
One: Cry out to the Lord in times of distress.
Many: God comes speedily to meet us. Let us worship the One who hears our pleading and our prayers.

†HYMN 280

God Is Here!

ABBOT’S LEIGH

†OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, the world needs you. We need you. Sometimes, our souls are wellsprings of sorrow and we are moved to shed rivers of tears. God of our salvation, revive our souls, for in you alone do we renew our strength. Come speedily to us once more and reveal your glory to us. Grant that we might find our true help wherever we are on life’s journey – everywhere we turn. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES AND BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM

Little Innocent Lamb
The First Church Choir, Liz Oman-Wilfrid, flute

arr. Ken Berg

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 8:18-22 (OT p.868)

† 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

Everywhere (Season Finale): A Prayer of Saint Columba

Rev. Fredd Ward

HYMN 501

There Is a Balm in Gilead

BALM IN GILEAD

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

May we be faithful in what we have received, that God may bless our work to bring healing and a glimpse of heaven here on earth.

OFFERTORY

A Prayer of St. Columba

Richard Shephard

The First Church 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

You call us to be wise stewards of our resources, that your realm may be blessed for the benefit of all. May we be found faithful in a little, that you may entrust us to be faithful in much. We offer you these gifts in gratitude for your love. Amen.

†HYMN 64

We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God

ELLACOMBE

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Thuma Mina

THUMA MINA

The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE

Vivace, from Grand Concerto No. 2

G. F. Handel

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!