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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
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 26, 2025
10 o'clock

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

PRELUDE

Prelude sur une Antienne

Chorale Prelude on Ein Feste Burg

Jean Langlais

Johann Walther

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Eric Malley

One: This is another amazing day the Lord has made:
Many: **a day for praise and prayer; a day for gratitude and generosity.**
One: This is the time God has granted us:
Many: **a time for being and breathing; a time for singing and silence.**
One: This is the life to which we’ve been called:
Many: **a life of service and humility; a life of good works and worship!**

†HYMN 65

[A Mighty Fortress Is Our God](#)

EIN’ FESTE BURG

†OPENING PRAYER

To you, O God, we sing our praises and send forth our prayers. Be in our midst this morning to remind us that there is good news for those who humble themselves. We want to be exalted – lifted up in your love! Pour out your Spirit on your people gathered here, that we may faithfully follow in your way and do your work. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM

Tell Out My Soul

The First Church Choir, Andrew Thomson, percussion

James Clemens

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

[Luke 18:9-14 \(NT p.99\)](#)

†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.

HYMN 254

[Breathe on Me, Breath of God](#)

TRENTHAM

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

God has entrusted us with vast and varied resources. Will we use them for self-interested or selfless purposes? Humility compels us to exercise good stewardship as we seek to build the beloved community.

OFFERTORY

My God Is an Awesome God

The First Church Choir, Tsehai Marson, Maria Soaft, Ben Cantor, soloists

Keith Hampton

†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, we have gathered in this meeting house to praise you and to pray together in humility. Through our offerings, we wish to extend our faith into ever-widening circles to the ends of the earth. Bless and multiply our efforts by the power of your holy love. Amen.

†HYMN 86

[Great Is Thy Faithfulness](#)

FAITHFULNESS

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Shalom Chaverim

The First Church Choir

SHALOM

POSTLUDE

Chorale Prelude on Ein Feste Burg

Johann Pachelbel

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!