Take My Life

HENDON

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE For the Beauty of the Earth
The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE

Jesu, Meine Freude
("Jesus, My Joy")

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# SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE Stewardship Sunday

November 16, 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

NOVEMBER 16, 2025

PRELUDES Variation on "Men may live a Godly life"

Jan Pieter Sweelinck

Lauda Festiva

Thomas R. Pearce

The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

**WELCOME** 

†CALL TO WORSHIP Doey Barnett

One: God has set this day before us,

Many: A day set apart, a day of rest and praise.

One: God has set our lives before us,

Many: A span of years in which we love, and serve, and serve.

One: God has set a seal upon our hearts,

Many: So that we might live fully in holy love. Let us worship God.

†HYMN 453 <u>Called as Partners in Christ's Service</u> BEECHER

## †OPENING PRAYER

Creator God, we come to this hour seeking the spiritual strength to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Jesus. Help us to resist self-centered ambition and worldly desire. Remind us that in losing our lives for the Savior's sake, we will truly find ourselves anchored in your love. Guide us and grant us courage and commitment. May we follow faithfully and give generously, even when it is difficult. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM Crown Him with Many Crowns arr. Douglas E. Wagner
The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READINGS Matthew 16:24-25 (NT p. 22)

†RESPONSE (HYMN 531) Thank You, Lord THANK YOU, LORD

Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord,

thank you, Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.

† Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

SERMON One Marble for Each Moment. 25 Cents at A Time.

HYMN 207 <u>In the Cross of Christ I Glory</u>

## 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.

Rev Fredd

**RATHBURN** 

#### CALL TO OFFERING

The pledge cards we have sent in recent days and the ones we will send in the coming days symbolize our commitment to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Jesus. With grateful hearts, let us bring forth our gifts and adore our God.

OFFERTORY Tolite Hostias Camille Saint-Saens
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.

#### LITANY OF DEDICATION:

One: O God, we pray for the wisdom to make stewardship a way of life always and in all ways.

All: O God, we acknowledge you as the source of everything we have and everything that we are as a community faith.

One: Help us to find the true source of happiness and fulfillment that we seek and that you alone can provide.

All: Help us to be thoughtful stewards by caring for and sharing the blessings you have bestowed upon us.

One: Help us to challenge each other, as followers of Jesus, to put our faith into action and to lead with love.

All: As we make plans and order our priorities, let us not forget the needs of neighbors near to our hearts and far from here.

One: O God, let us give generously as an expression of our gratitude for the grace we have received.

All: O God, help us to trust in you one moment at a time. Amen.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!