

†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

Abundant God, the evidence of your generous nature is obvious. May these gifts bear good fruit as they go forth, that peace may come; that differences may be reconciled; and that those who cry for justice, may be heard. Amen.

†HYMN 136

[\*Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming\*](#)

PLEADING SAVIOR

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
The Adult Choir

VENI EMMANUEL

POSTLUDE

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*  
("Sleepers, wake! A voice is calling")

Johann Walther

---

To attach your hearing aids to our assisted listening system,  
download the Sennheiser Mobileconnect App and scan this code:



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: <https://whfirstchurch.org/donate/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**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

December 7, 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

DECEMBER 7, 2025

PRELUDE

*Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*

Forrest Hill

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Bethune Family

One:

During the season of Advent, we anticipate Emmanuel – God with us. We watch and wait, trusting that God has promised salvation to all who walk in the light.

All:

This morning, we kindle the second candle to remind us that PEACE is a ribbon that circles the earth – peace offers a promise of safety and worth.

[The congregation will pause to allow time for candle lighting.]

UNISON PRAYER

Prince of Peace, you came into the world in human form as an infant – God with us, revealed in us. Help us live as peacemakers. God of peace, bind all people in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. Amen.

RESPONSE (HYMN 128)

[One Candle Is Lit \(verse 2\)](#)

CRADLE SONG

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare for a gift that compels us with justice to care.

Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.

One candle is lit for the reign of God’s peace.

Used with permission from CCLI, License 4720828

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Elizabeth Oman-Wilfrid

One:

People of goodwill, the Creator has called us here.

Many:

We gather to praise our God with awe and reverence.

One:

Blessed be our God, who has done marvelous things.

Many:

We gather to give thanks to God for hope and peace.

One:

A righteous ruler is coming to save us and change us.

Many:

We are ready to receive what the Spirit of wisdom will reveal!

†HYMN 125

[Come, O Long Expected Jesus](#)

HYFRYDOL

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

†OPENING PRAYER

God of hope and peace, as we worship you on this second Sunday of Advent, may we catch glimpses of the prophet’s vision of harmony. May we open ourselves to receive your grace; may we welcome one another, as you have welcomed us. May we prepare our hearts and our whole lives for Christ to be born in us again. And when our worship is done, may we be renewed and prepared to carry your righteousness and justice into the world. In the name of Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Amanda Bethune

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

[Isaiah 11:1-10 \(OT p.784\)](#)

†RESPONSE (HYMN 134)

[Emmanuel, Emmanuel](#)

McGEE

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Used with permission from CCLI, License #4720828

SERMON

*The Fabric Sermons (1 of 2): Peace Like Blue Denim*

Rev. Fredd Ward

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.

HYMN 132

[When God Is a Child](#)

MOON BEAMS

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

CALL TO OFFERING

This time of offering is an opportunity to contribute to causes that align with God’s will for us – especially the establishment of a peaceable kingdom. Let us not withhold from God what is already God’s own.

OFFERTORY

*A Maiden Most Gentle*

arr. Andrew Carter

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!