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Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
First Sunday After the Epiphany

January 11, 2026
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*

FIRST CHURCH WEST HARTFORD**JANUARY 11, 2026****PRELUDES***Fantasia in E Flat, part 1*

Camille Saint-Saens

Invocation in B Flat

Alexandre Guilma

WELCOME**†CALL TO WORSHIP**

Doey Barnett

One: Our voices can seem weak, our efforts in vain.

Many: **Sometimes we feel like dimly burning wicks, just about to go out.**

One: Sometimes we feel stuck in darkness, trying to find the way out.

Many: **Then God takes us by the hand.**

One: God strengthens us in our weakness so that God's vision may be fulfilled through us.

Many: **We trust that anyone who worships God is precious to God – everyone who believes in God receives forgiveness.****†HYMN 253***Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness*

PLEADING SAVIOUR

†OPENING PRAYER

We come before you, our God, in response to your command to preach and practice the gospel truth. You made the heavens and the earth and created us to fulfill your divine design – a world that is righteous and just, a world that you have promised will come to pass. Breathe your Spirit upon us again. May we bring light to the shadowy places in life. We pray in the name of Jesus, who was baptized and then showed the early believers the way to righteousness and forgiveness. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM*Lully, Lulla, Lullay*

Philip Stopford

The First Church Choir, Nicole Dickinson, soloist

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE**SCRIPTURE READING**[Acts 10:34-43 \(NT p.157-158\)](#)**†RESPONSE (HYMN 172)***Star of Wonder*

KINGS OF ORIENT

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

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

SERMON*Anyone Who Fears. Everyone Who Believes.*

Rev. Fredd Ward

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

The prophet Isaiah calls those who partner with God a light to the nations. What an important and weighty endeavor! May we give our lives and our gifts for this world-shaping work!

OFFERTORY*Brightest and Best*

The First Church Choir

Richard Shephard

†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

Creator God, you love all people and nations. You have in mind a world where every person and every living thing flourishes – where justice and righteousness prevail. Use this church and her resources – especially us – for the newness of life that you envision. Amen.

†HYMN 249*Spirit*

SPIRIT

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE*Amen*

The First Church Choir

SPIRITUAL

POSTLUDE*Fantasia in E Flat, part 2*

Camille Saint-Saens

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!