

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Amen
The First Church Choir

SPIRITUAL

POSTLUDE

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

Joe Utterback

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

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
MLK SUNDAY &
Second Sunday After the Epiphany

January 18, 2026
10 o'clock

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

PRELUDES

Theme from the New World SymphonyAnton Dvorak

Joy to the WorldG.F. Handle arr. Patricia A. Sanders

The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIPJimmy Quinn

One: Let us turn our thoughts today to Martin Luther King.

Many: Let us recognize that there are ties between us – all persons living on the earth.

One: Let us remember that we are bound together.

Many: We are bound together in our desire to see the world become a place where our children can grow free and strong.

One: We are bound together by the task that stands before us and the road that lies ahead.

Many: We are bound by ties of hope and love, sister and brotherhood.

One: Let us turn our thoughts today to Martin Luther King.

Many: Let us worship!

†HYMN 623

Woke Up This Morning

WOKE UP

†OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, when we submit to despair and get lost in disappointment, remind us who we are and whose we are. Save us from bitterness and resentment. Help us resist the temptation to withdraw into ourselves. Keep us from adopting a fatalistic attitude. Teach us to cling to infinite hope as Dr. King encouraged his congregation. Teach us to rejoice in your presence as the Apostle Paul urged the Philippian church. Grant us the “courage to be” and the “strength to love”. Amen.

INVITATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

ANTHEM

Angels We Have Heard on HighFrench Melody arr. Patricia A. Sanders

The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4:4-9 (NT p.242-243)

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

†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.

SERMON

A Sermon About Shattered Dreams

Rev. Fredd Ward

HYMN 628

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

PRECIOUS LORD

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

What does God require of us? With what shall we come before the Lord? It is not with burnt offerings, but with hearts filled with praise and lives bent on justice. With joy and thanksgiving for the tender mercies of our God, may today’s offering be a sign of our commitment to shed a little light.

OFFERTORY

Shed a Little Light

James Taylor

The Rock Voices and First Church Choirs, Peter Harris and Sheila Ward, soloists

†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

God of Grace and God of Glory, you breathe on us and bless us. We experience fullness of life because of our faith in you. As we strive to be a light to the nations, may others come to know your peace, which passes all understanding. Bless the gifts we bring before you now, that they might reach the very ends of the earth and all those who are in need. Amen.

†HYMN 627

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

SOJOURNER

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!