

POSTLUDE

Allegro in F, from the Fourth Organ Concerto

G. F. Handel

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
Third Sunday After the Epiphany

January 25, 2026
10 o'clock

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

FIRST CHURCH WEST HARTFORD

JANUARY 25, 2026

PRELUDES

Winter, from the "Four Seasons"
*Elevation in F*Antonio Vivaldi
Alexandre Guilmant

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of Love, we need you this very hour.
Many: Teach us to love those who are hard to love. Teach us to pray for every enemy of love.
 One: God of Peace, we need you this very hour.
Many: Teach us how to reach agreement. Teach us to speak rather than be silent.
 One: God of Joy, we need you this very hour.
Many: Relieve our burdens, they are many. Lift our spirits, they are weighed down.
 One: God of life, we need you every hour of every day.
Many: Grant us grace. Grant us wisdom. Grant us love!

†HYMN 73

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

WELLESLEY

†OPENING PRAYER

God of Love, we come to this time of worship acknowledging the difficulty of your command to love our enemies and to pray for those who trespass against us. Teach us to resist hatred. Teach us to withstand and outlast fear. Teach us to extend the same mercy to others that you show us. Work in our hearts to produce the fruit of self-giving love. Help us to move toward spiritual maturity and reflect your holy love. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Amanda Bethune

ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas
The First Church Choir

Maurice Duruflé

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:38-48 (NT p.6)

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

†RESPONSE ([HYMN 172](#))*Star of Wonder*
O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

KINGS OF ORIENT

SERMON

Love and Hate; Good and Evil

Rev. Terry Schmitt

HYMN 722

This Is My Song

FINLANDIA

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

We have been abundantly blessed by God and God calls us to be a blessing to others by loving our enemies; reflecting God's perfection; and using our gifts to build God's kingdom.

OFFERTORY

True Light

Keith Hampton

The First Church Choir, Nicole Dickinson, soloist

†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

May our offerings and our lives be a testament to your perfect love, showering kindness on the just and unjust alike. May we become channels of your peace, transforming conflict into compassion and showing the world the glory of your kingdom here on earth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

†HYMN 537

My Hope Is Built

THE SOLID ROCK

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Amen

The First Church Choir

SPIRITUAL

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!