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*Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All*

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

February 1, 2026  
10 o'clock

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:** <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.

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

PRELUDES

Andante from the Piano Concerto in C, K. 467

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Court Lewis

One: What does faith in God require of us?

Many: To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

One: With what shall we come before the Lord?

Many: With speech that is gentle, and words that build up.

One: How shall we live our faith in an upside down world?

Many: With attitudes that are right side up!

†HYMN 284

Gather Us In

GATHER US IN

†OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, when the world asks us to meet standards that don't match your intentions, free us from sorrow and grief. When we are injured by carelessness and callousness, help us resist the temptation to retaliate. Keep us from lashing out in our suffering. When we've been hurt, help us avoid hurting others. Make us ever mindful of humility. Fill us with a hunger and a thirst for righteousness, that we may be blessed and bless the world in all that we say and do. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Amanda Bethune

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-12(NT p.4-5)

†RESPONSE (HYMN 264)

Where the Spirit of the Lord Is

ADAMS

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is peace.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is love.

There is comfort in life's darkest hour, there is light and life, there is help and power in the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Lord.

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

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 340

Softly and Tenderly

THOMPSON

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

CALL TO OFFERING

"God has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?" In this spirit, let us bring our offerings and our best selves before God.

OFFERTORY

At the Table

Richard Smallwood

The First Church Choir, Maria Soaft, 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

Source of justice and mercy, work through these offerings to bring your gifts to the world: righteousness and peace; love and kindness; hope and joy. May our gifts express our gratitude for the many ways you bless our church, our community, and the whole wide world. Amen.

†HYMN 683

O for a World

AZMON

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Amen

SPIRITUAL

The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C Major

J. S. Bach

"The Fanfare"

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!