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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**

March 1, 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.

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

PRELUDES *Chorale Prelude on ABERSTWYTH* Claude Means  
*Meditation on a Welsh Hymn Tune* Carl Simone

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP Jimmy Quinn

One: God calls us to venture forth in faith.  
**Many: The love of God goes with us and guides us.**  
 One: Christ has commissioned us to share the good news.  
**Many: The gospel working within us can heal our world.**  
 One: The Holy Spirit will sustain us by and by.  
**Many: The One who made heaven and earth meets us here and now.**

†HYMN 24 [\*The God of Abraham Praise\*](#) LEONI

†OPENING PRAYER

**Maker of heaven and earth, when we face times of trial, lift our eyes to the hills that we might find help. You meet us in our need. You lift us from the cares and toils that weaken our resolve and sap our strength. Call us this day as you called followers in former days. We long to experience your power and to respond with faithful hearts and willing spirits. Bless us this day, that we might share the promise of your blessings in future days. Amen.**

INVITATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READINGS [Romans 4:13-17\(NT p.188\)](#)  
[2 Corinthians 4:7-15 \(NT p.220\)](#)

†RESPONSE [\*Lord Jesus, Think on Me\*](#) SOUTHWELL

**Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin,  
 From worldly passions set me free, and make me pure within.**

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

SERMON *Human Clay* Rev. Terry Schmitt

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 542 [\*Jesus, Lover of My Soul\*](#) ABERSTWYTH

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

CALL TO OFFERING

"But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us." Let us give for the sake of the gospel.

OFFERTORY *Agnus Dei (Winter's Dream)* Paul Halley  
 The First Church Choir, Mallory Kokus, Soprano Saxophone

†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

**Gracious God, just as you blessed our ancestors when they ventured forth in faith, bless us in our living and in our giving. Transform our gifts and offerings into peace and power for a weak and weary world. We ask these things trusting in your great love. Amen.**

†HYMN 557 [\*Just a Closer Walk With Thee\*](#) CLOSER WALK

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *Our Darkness* Taize Chant  
 The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE *Gothic Toccata* Dennis Eliot

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!