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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.



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

March 15, 2026  
10 o'clock

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

PRELUDES *Prelude on "Slane"* Gerre Hancock  
*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* arr. Patricia Cota  
The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP Rachael Protos  
One: Once lost in darkness,  
**Many: We now live in the light.**  
One: Once blinded by self-interest,  
**Many: We now look through the lens of Christ's love.**  
One: Once limited by self-reliance,  
**Many: We now call upon the power of God's Spirit to show us the way!**

†HYMN 586 [\*Open My Eyes, That I May See\*](#) OPEN MY EYES

†OPENING PRAYER  
**Gracious God, guide our steps, open the eyes of our hearts, and fling wide the doors of our minds to make sense of these difficult days and troubling times. Open our lives to love others as you love us. Bless our world that it might become all that you envision for all creation. In the light of your love, we pray. Amen.**

INVITATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

ANTHEM *Jesus Paid it All* arr. Patricia Cota  
The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READINGS  
[Ephesians 5:6-11, 15-17](#)

†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 *Try to Find Out...* Rev. Fredd Ward

HYMN 595 [\*Be Thou My Vision\*](#) SLANE

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  
As Christ's light has guided us here, may Christ's light shine in and through us that we may lift each other up and love others.

OFFERTORY *God, My Shepherd, Walks Beside Me* J. S. Bach  
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  
**All-seeing God, you see the gifts we offer today, and you know what we are capable of giving one day at a time: our treasure and our time, our service and our lives. Help us keep trying to find out the ways that generosity brings your realm to fuller fruition. Bless our lives and our gifts in your light and your love. Amen.**

†HYMN 588 [\*Have Thine Own Way, Lord!\*](#) LIVING FOR JESUS

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

POSTLUDE *Toccata in C Minor* Leonardo Leo

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!