

†HYMN 218 *Thine is the Glory* MACCABEUS
(If you'd like to join in singing the benediction response, please come forward during this hymn.)

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *The Hallelujah Chorus* George F. Handel

PRELUDES *Toccata from the Fifth Organ Symphony* Charles M. Widor

Our brass quintet this morning consists of Jeffrey Allbright and Angel Fernandez, trumpets, Matt Carley, horn, Christopher Schrock, trombone, and David Winer, tuba.

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.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Easter Sunday

April 05, 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

APRIL 05, 2026

PRELUDES

Lift High the Cross arr. Dan Boone
The First Church Brass Quintet
Resurrection Fanfare Alexander Därr

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

DAWNE QUINN

One: Source of resurrection joy, breathe new life into us this holy morning.
Many: **Open our hearts to the mystery of this day, for we long to touch the depth of your mercy and the vastness of your love.**
One: From the darkness of doubt, you have led us into your glorious light where faith, hope, and love abide.
Many: **This Easter morning, you reveal that life never ends and love never dies.**
One: This is the life that our God has brought forth. Let us give thanks and be glad in it!
Many: **This is the love that has conquered the grave. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

†HYMN 216

[*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*](#)

EASTER HYMN

†OPENING PRAYER

Life-giving God, when the first light of day is shrouded in grief and pain, you surprise us with your wondrous love. When we come to the tomb expecting finality, you give us a fresh start. Take us back to that moment, when fear was healed by hope and death was banished by life. In the holy awe of this Easter morning, we sing with joy: Christ, our Lord, has risen today! Alleluia! Amen!

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

AMANDA BETHUNE

ANTHEM

This Is a Day of Rejoicing Allen Pote
The First Church Choir

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

[*John 20:1-18*](#)

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

†RESPONSE 324

[*Your Words to Me Are Life and Health*](#)

WINCHESTER OLD

**Your words to me are life and health; pour strength into my soul;
Enable, guide, and teach my heart to reach its perfect goal!**

SERMON

Ballast: Linen Wrappings and Lifesaving Things

Rev. Fredd Ward

HYMN 233

[*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*](#)

HYFRYDOL

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

No gift we bring can adequately express our gratitude for God's lifesaving love. Yet there is joy in doing all we can to honor our Savior and proclaim the good news to the world. May we give with glad hearts.

OFFERTORY

Fugue on Easter Hymn

James Boratko

The First Church Choir & Brass Quintet

†DOXOLOGY 49

[*From All That Dwell Below the Skies*](#)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

†OFFERTORY PRAYER

With gratitude and joy, O God, we bring these gifts for your use. In so doing, we dedicate our lives to loving and serving you. May our monetary resources and the ministries of this church bring new life wherever it is needed in the world. May our gifts touch the lost and lonely with the assurance that in your arms, life never ends and love never dies. Amen.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!