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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>

Sunday worship is live-streamed downstairs in the John P. Webster Library- ideal for families with young children or anyone needing a quieter space.



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

April 12, 2026
10 o'clock

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

PRELUDES *Improvisation on "Wounded for Me"* JAMES BORATKO
O Sons and Daughters HUGH LIVINGSTON, JR.

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP RACHAEL PROTOS

One: We gather with gratitude for the one who touched the wounds of the world – Christ Jesus, our Lord and our God.
Many: We gather as believers and seekers who have been wounded by the world.
 One: We have not seen the risen Christ. We have not touched him with our own hands as Thomas did.
Many: Yet, we believe. Jesus is our refuge in hurt and pain. Jesus is the way and the truth and the life – our Lord and our God! Alleluia!

†HYMN 234 [*Crown Him with Many Crowns*](#) DIADEMATA

†OPENING PRAYER

Jesus of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection, we rejoice in you. Before the experience of the cross, you questioned the oppressive political powers and challenged the restrictive religious structures by virtue of your ministry of love. And then you were struck down. But you defeated death and left your burial shroud behind and appeared to your beloved disciples. Be present and alive for us today. We rejoice in you because of your life-giving peace and power. You are our Lord and our God. Alleluia! Amen!

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES AMANDA BETHUNE

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING [John 20:19-31](#)

†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!**

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

SERMON *He Was Wounded for You and Me Too* Rev. Fredd Ward

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 214 [Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me](#) TOPLADY

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

CALL TO OFFERING

Let us give generously, so that others may know the faithfulness of Jesus, alive in our lives, alive in lives of others – a very present source of justice and joy.

OFFERTORY *Go Forth and Tell* DAVID OGDEN
 The First Church Choir

†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

Jesus our Protector and Savior, we thank you for every gift you have given us that blesses our lives and your church. We thank you for every gift that comes to us in times of despair to lift us up and set us free. May these gifts bless our world so that others may know your great concern for human suffering. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

†HYMN 2 [Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee](#) HYMN TO JOY

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *Thuma Mina* THUMA MINA

POSTLUDES *Improvisation on HYMN TO JOY* JAMES BORATKO

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!