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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.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

April 19, 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 19, 2026

PRELUDES *Benedictus* MAX REGER

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP DOEY BARNETT

One: Even if we feel unlovable and lonely,
Many: Christ draws near to us.
One: Even when we become uncertain and lost,
Many: Christ goes the distance with us.
One: Even when we don't recognize his presence,
Many: Christ Speaks to us.
One: When we're laughing to walk in the dark, Christ lights the way.
Many: Christ our Lord, stay with us!

†HYMN 420 *I Come with Joy* DOVE OF PEACE

†OPENING PRAYER

Lover of our souls, you meet us on the roadways that we travel and you minister to our troubles. Heal our obliviousness and our hardness of heart. Open our minds to the subtlety of your ways and the majesty of your kingdom. During times of doubt, help us develop deeper trust in the gospel truth. Reveal your presence to us, as we worship in your holy name. Amen.

INVITATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL AMANDA BETHUNE

SCRIPTURE READING (PART 1) [LUKE 24:13-27](#)

ANTHEM *Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown* ARR. THOMAS GIBB
The First Church Choir, Ben Cantor, soloist

SCRIPTURE READING (PART 2) [LUKE 24:28-35](#)

†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 *Everywhere Is Within Walking Distance...If You Have the Time* Rev. Fredd

HYMN 397 [Come, Risen Lord](#) HOLBORN

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

What shall we return to God in response to God's many gifts? What praises shall we sing in honor of God's many blessings? In the presence of God's people, let us offer with heartfelt gratitude.

OFFERTORY *Lord of the Dance* ARR. DAN HART
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

Loving God, receive our thanks for meeting us on the road and for quickening our spirits. Receive our thanks for enlightening our minds. May the gifts we bring before you now reflect the stirring in our hearts. In turn, may these offerings stir the hearts of those in need of your mercy and your grace. Amen.

†HYMN 222 [Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!](#) W ZLOBIE LEZY

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *Thuma Mina* THUMA MINA
The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE *Antiphon IV* MARCEL DUPRÉ
"The Winter Is Past"

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!