

†HYMN 545

[He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought](#)

HE LEADETH ME

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Thuma Mina
The First Church Choir

THUMA MINA

POSTLUDE

Divertissement, Op. 31, No. 11

Louis Vierne

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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 26, 2026
10 o'clock

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

PRELUDES *Prelude on BRADBURY* RICK PARKS

Crown Him With Many Crowns GEORGE ELVEY
The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

BOB CALEF

One: Do you need protection from danger?

Many: **The Lord is our shepherd.**

One: Do you need a path to pursue?

Many: **The Lord is our gate.**

One: Do you need spiritual renewal?

Many: **The Lord restores our souls! Let us worship!**

†HYMN 558 [*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*](#) BRADBURY

†OPENING PRAYER

When danger is close at hand, you gather us to yourself and provide shelter. When pressures and stressors surround us, you are our home and our safe harbor. When enemies threaten our sense of safety, you reassure us. Restore our souls, Good Shepherd. Lead us in the paths of righteousness, that we may walk in the way of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM JAMES MALCOM BOUCHER
CHILD OF JESSICA & ERIC JAMES BOUCHER

INVITATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL AMANDA BETHUNE

ANTHEM *Christ Arose* FRANCIS L. CALLAHAN
The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Jessica Berube-Sengupta, director

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING [Psalm 23](#)

† 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 23.3 Restoration and Right Paths rev.fredd

HYMN 80 [My Shepherd You Supply My Need](#) RESIGNATION

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

Our cups overflow with God's abundant mercy. There is more than enough for all when we who gather in God's name are willing to share ourselves and our resources.

OFFERTORY *Seek Ye First* KAREN LAFFERTY
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

Shepherd of our souls, thank you for the love that you pour into our lives. May that same love multiply these gifts so that others shall not want. Bless this offering and our very lives so that your beloved community may be established here on earth for all the sheep of your fold. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!