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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

May 3, 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

MAY 3, 2026

PRELUDES

Meditation LOUIS VIERNE
Heut' triumphieret Gottes Sohn, BWV 630 JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH
("Today God's Son Triumphs")

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

RACHAEL PROTOS

One: Look at the birds of the air.
Many: God – our heavenly Creator – feeds them.
One: Consider the lilies of the field.
Many: Even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed so fine.
One: We are even more precious to God!
Many: Surely God will clothe us and cover us!

†HYMN 86

[Great Is Thy Faithfulness](#)

FAITHFULNESS

†OPENING PRAYER

O God, we long to come into your presence unbothered by the chaos of our world. Meanwhile, our minds are full of worry. Our souls are weary. Our hearts are buffeted by the winds of violence and division. We yearn to rest in the assurance that Jesus offered his friends: "Do not worry." Fortify our faith and multiply our trust so that we might strive for the kingdom of God and, in so doing, receive all that we need. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

[Matthew 6:25-34](#)

†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

The Loose Garment Life

rev.fredd

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

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 395

[Seed, Scattered and Sown](#)

SEED SCATTERED

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

CALL TO OFFERING

Let our offerings be a joyous expression of gratitude to God, who deals graciously with us. With gratitude, we respond to the needs of people nearby and far away – people who yearn to be made whole in a broken world.

OFFERTORY

The Rain Is Over and Gone

PAUL HALLEY

The First Church Choir, Tsehai Marson, soloist

†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

Gracious God, like the birds of the air, we can depend on your provision. You take care of us. Like the lilies of the field, all that we have is yours. Every good gift we have to offer came first from your hand. Bless us this day and bless the gifts we bring. Amen.

†HYMN 82

[His Eye Is on the Sparrow](#)

SPARROW

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Thuma Mina

THUMA MINA

POSTLUDES

Fugue in C Major ("The Jig Fugue")

DIETRICH BUXTEHUDE

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!