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Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

May 31, 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 31, 2026

PRELUDES *Madrigal* LOUIS VIERNE
Chant de Paix JEAN LANGLAIS

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP NINA LAWRENCE

One: In the beginning...
Many: God created mortals and asked us to care for all creation.
One: In the fullness of time, God sent Jesus...
Many: Jesus showed us how to love as God loves.
One: In our time, and throughout eternity...
Many: We are called to care for each other and the earth in the name of the Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

†HYMN 64 [We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God](#) ELLACOMBE

†OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, with an inventive spark of genius, you set the cosmos in motion. Time after time, your creative presence brings new life. We experience your love in the wonders of nature and in the compassion of Christ. We experience your love through the Holy Spirit, that swept over the face of the waters as in the beginning; that was with Christ throughout his ministry; and that is with us eternally. For your endless presence and your infinite ways, we give you thanks. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AMANDA BETHUNE

ANTHEM *Glory to the Trinity* SERGI RACHMANINOFF
The First Church Choir

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING [Genesis 1:1-5](#)

†RESPONSE 263 [Surely the Presence of the Lord](#) WOLFE
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SERMON *Chaos...Then Creation* rev.fredd

HYMN 250 [O Breath of Life](#) ST. CLEMENT

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 will we return to God for all the bounty of the universe we have been given to enjoy? We're called to offer no less than all that we have and all that we are.

OFFERTORY *You Are Holy* KEITH HAMPTON
The First Church Choir

†DOXOLOGY 46 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDRETH
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

†OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creator God, as we offer our prayers, our hopes, our gifts of time and resources, our service, and our witness, we are grateful to join in your ongoing creative work to bring love and peace and unity to this chaotic world. Amen.

†HYMN 62 [Creator God, Creating Still](#) ST. ANNE

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *Spirit of the Living God* LIVING GOD
The First Church Choir

POSTLUDES *Toccata on "Nicaea"* LANI SMITH

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

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!