

†OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, you have put your Spirit within us and placed responsibility upon us. The gifts we now return were first received from your hand – we could not earn or repay them. Yet we are filled with your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. And so we offer them all to you, grateful to share them with your people everywhere around the world. Amen.

†HYMN 668 [*For the Healing of the Nations*](#) CWM RHONDDA

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

POSTLUDE *Improvisation on "CWM RHONDDA"* JAMES BORATKO

We are pleased to have Greg Chandler, Melissa Johnson, and Susan Stewart join the choir as guests from the Rock Voices Choir.

To attach your hearing aids to our assisted listening system, download the Sennheiser Mobileconnect App and scan this code:



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Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

June 21, 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

JUNE 21, 2026

PRELUDES

*Durch Adams Fall
(When Adam Fell)*

GOTTFRIED HOMILIUS

Lay Your Hands on Us, Lord

JOE UTTERBACK

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

JIMMY QUINN

One: The Spirit of God is upon us, because God has anointed us to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captives.

Many: We gather today in celebration and remembrance. We praise the God of liberation, who breaks chains and builds bridges!

One: On this Juneteenth Sunday, we remember the tears of enslaved persons-- their enduring hope, and the price of freedom they paid for our benefit.

Many: We do not forget history's horrors. We also claim our shared future. We are faith-filled people, rooted in the promise of God's steadfast love.

One: Even in the midst of lingering injustice, this is still the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and reflect and be glad in it!

Many: We lift our voices in praise. We lift hearts in hope. Come, let us worship the Lord of our salvation together.

†HYMN 631

[*Lift Every Voice and Sing*](#)

LIFT EVERY VOICE

†OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we remember Galveston and that historic day when the chains of bondage were finally broken. We honor the resilience, courage, and fortitude it took for enslaved Africans to survive and to build a legacy of strength that we have inherited. As we commemorate that historic happening, pour out your grace upon us. Help us to honor the sacrifices of the past and give us the courage to confront the systemic injustices that still divide us. May today be more than a day of celebration. Let it be a catalyst for healing, education, and unity. Amen.

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

ANTHEM

He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother
The First Church Choir

ARR. JAY ALTHOUSE

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

[*Galations 5:1, 13-25*](#)

†RESPONSE 263

[*Surely the Presence of the Lord*](#)

WOLF

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings; I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

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SERMON

Liberty Further Extended:

Rev. Leslie Jackson

A Juneteenth Reflection on Galatians 5 And the Legacy of Lemuel Haynes

HYMN 501

[*There Is a Balm in Gilead*](#)

BALM IN GILEAD

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

God has called us and equipped us with an abundant share of God's own Spirit – a generous gift to celebrate and to share.

OFFERTORY

Lean on Me

BILL WITHERS/MARK HAYES

The First Church Choir, Maria Soaft, soloist

†DOXOLOGY 46

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDETH

**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.**

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!