

†OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God, accept our gifts as signs of our commitment to build and to be your beloved community. Accept our very lives as downpayment toward our sincere intention to pursue what is good and acceptable in your sight. May these monetary resources rescue persons in peril and provide shelter from life's storms, through Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

†HYMN 677

[Let There Be Peace on Earth](#)

WORLD PEACE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sing Praise to Our Creator

KEVIN NORRIS

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First Church of Christ Congregational
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Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

August 23, 2026
10 o'clock

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

PRELUDES

Theme from "Grande Piece Symphonique"

CEASAR FRANCK

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

RACHAEL PROTOS

One:

Amid the forces of death and destruction,

Many:

it takes a village to save us.

One:

Amid the troubling waters that would overwhelm us,

Many:

it takes souls willing to labor in love.

One:

Amid the fear and enmity in our world,

Many:

it takes ordinary people to fulfill God’s vision. Let us worship!

†HYMN 23

[Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven](#)

LAUDA ANIMA

†OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, bind the wounds we have knowingly and unknowingly caused. We long to replace our insensitivity and indifference with grace and mercy. We yearn to replace our disregard of others with deep compassion. We desire to walk in the footsteps of the ancient midwives – Shiphrah and Puah -- defying expectations and delivering justice and joy in these troubling times. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL

AMANDA BETHUNE

ANTHEM

How Can I Keep from Singing

Eve Schmitt, Carillon

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

[Exodus 1:8-20](#)

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

†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

Labor and Delivery

rev.fredd

HYMN 76

[The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young](#)

CRIMOND

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’s light shines through giving hands and generous hearts. Christ’s voice speaks through acts of healing. In our sharing, let us birth the light and love of God for the benefit of others.

OFFERTORY

Lord, For Thy Tender Mercies Sake

FARRANT

Kathi Boratko, Sara Thompson, Michael Loveland, Jim Boratko, soloists

†DOXOLOGY 46

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

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!