

†OFFERTORY PRAYER

Bless these gifts, gracious God, that they may build bridges where there are chasms; bring hope where there are hurt feelings; and extend your love to all. As we offer our material resources, may we also offer our hearts, striving to live in unity and peace. Amen.

†HYMN 589

[Lord, I Want to Be a Christian](#)

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Allegretto con Grazia

EDWARD HOPKINS



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

September 06, 2026
10 o'clock

Download the Sennheiser Mobileconnect App and scan this code to attach your hearing aids to our assisted listening system.:



First Church of Christ Congregational
12 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107
(860) 233-9605 | www.whfirstchurch.org
Give Online: <http://www.whfirstchurch.org/giving/give>

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

PRELUDES

Prayers Ascending
Ave Verum
The Treble Clef Choir

GILBERT MARTIN
GABRIEL FAURE

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

BOB CALEF

One: The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.

Many: **We lay aside the deeds of darkness; and put on the armor of light.**

One: We owe no one anything, except to love one another, for love is the fulfillment of the law.

Many: **We come to worship with heart awakened, ready to cast off the old and embrace the new.**

One: Let us awaken to God’s call, to live as God’s people, and to reflect God’s love in all that we do.

Many: **We worship the One who calls us into the light, to love one another as God has loved us.**

†HYMN 623

[Woke Up This Morning](#)

WOKE UP

†OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, as we gather in your presence, we seek to put on the armor of light, and to live as your beloved community. Help us cast aside darkness and embrace love – love fulfills the law. Awaken us to you call, so that we may walk in the light of Christ each day. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

[Romans 13:8-10](#)

†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

Indebted: Care but Don’t Carry

rev.fredd

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 499

[When Love Is Found](#)

O WALY WALY

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

CALL TO OFFERING

As we offer our gifts today, let us also commit our hearts to living out the love that God has offered to us in Christ Jesus.

OFFERTORY

Benedictus
The Treble Clef Choir, Nicole Dickinson, soloist

GABRIEL FAURÉ

†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.**