

†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.

†OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God, our lives are often surrounded by things that drain our energy and distract our attention. The gifts we offer this morning reflect our best intention to turn our focus away from fear and toward deeper faith. We commit ourselves to the many blessings that renew and heal our lives: your mercy, love, compassion, and grace. Amen.

†HYMN 594

[Dear Lord, and Father of Mankind](#)

REST

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

The Great Amen

MARK A. RAMOS

POSTLUDE

Antiphon, "Send forth your light"

CHRISTOPHER TAMBLING



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

September 20, 2026
10 o'clock

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

Prelude on "My Jesus, I Love Thee"
Reflection

FRED B. BINCKES
CHRISTOPHER TAMBLING

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP

BOB CALEF

One: While we’re in the wilderness and our spirits grow weary, we confess our impatience, O God.

Many: **We stray from the path and forget our daily bread.**

One: Yet even in our turning away, God hears our cries and offers mercy.

Many: **God does not abandon us to our transgressions. God holds up a mirror and lifts up signs of mercy.**

One: Come, let us worship the God who rescues us when we’ve been bitten.

Many: **We look to God. We trust in God’s steadfast love, and we live. Let us worship God!**

†HYMN 88

[*All My Hope on God Is Founded*](#)

NEANDER

†OPENING PRAYER

O God of comfort and Guide of our journey, we come before you today. Like the Israelites in the wilderness, our patience grows thin when the road is long. We often grumble about life and lose sight of your grace and provision. In our weariness and waywardness, meet us with your mercy. As you instructed Moses to lift the bronze serpent so that the people might look and live, fix our eyes firmly upon you. When we feel the stings of doubt, help us not to look inward in despair, but upward in faith. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

BACKPACK BLESSING & PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

AMANDA BETHUNE

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

ANTHEM

JLM
The First Church Choir

BRADLEY PHILLIPS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

[*Numbers 21:4b-9*](#)

†RESPONSE 113

Jesus Loves Me!
JESUS LOVES ME

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

SERMON

Wisdom from the Wilderness (1 of 2): God’s Mercy Is Medicine

rev.fredd

HYMN 546

[*Amazing Grace*](#)

NEW BRITAIN

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

We have found identity and belonging in this community that sustains our spirits. Let us now expand the circle of opportunity as we share a portion of what God has first provided.

OFFERTORY

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven
The First Church Choir

ARR. DAVID ASHLEY WHITE

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!