†OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, bless the offerings of our gifts and our lives. May they be blessings of love – love for you and for your people. May we be children of love who bring love to the whole wide world. In gratitude, we pray. Amen.

†HYMN 595	*Be Thou My Vision*	SLANE
BENEDICTION		
BENEDICTION RESPONSE	*Amen, Alleluia*	JOHN L. BALL
POSTLUDE	*Postlude in a Classic Style*	GORDON YOUNG

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

first church
WEST HARTFORD

Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

October 25, 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 **OCTOBER 25, 2026**

PRELUDES *If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee* PAUL KARVONEN
Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ JOHANN BUTTSTEDT
("Praise Be to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ")

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP COURT LEWIS

One: Let us ascend the mountain of the Lord, where the view stretches as far as the eye can see and the mind can comprehend.

Many: We gather to remember the God of our ancestors, whose promises endure from age to age.

One: Even when we do not step into the fullness of the territory ahead, God goes with us and gives us visions of a fruitful future.

Many: Praise the Lord, who guides our steps, numbers our days, and never leaves us to face difficulty alone.

One: There has never arisen a prophet like Moses, who performed mighty signs and wonders and whose legacy informs our lives.

Many: With full hearts, let us lift our voices in praise. Let us worship our God together!

†HYMN 288 *O God of Vision* LOBE DEN HERREN

†OPENING PRAYER

O God, our Creator and Director, like Moses upon Mount Nebo, we pause today to look back at your faithfulness throughout the course of time. At the same time, we look forward to the promises you will certainly fulfill. Thank you for the visions you show us, for the work you will surely complete in your timing, and for your presence that walks with us even when the path is paved with struggles and stresses. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AMANDA BETHUNE

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

ANTHEM *Song of Autumn* JAMES KIRKBY
The First Church Choir

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING Deuteronomy 34:1-12

†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 *Vision and Vigor* rev.fredd

HYMN 565 *If You Will Trust in God to Guide You* WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

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 been our help and our hope from generation to generation. Let us offer help and hope to others through this morning's offering.

OFFERTORY *Onward, Ye People* JEAN SIBELIUS
The First Church Choir

†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!