



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

**CELEBRATING THE SABBATH
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

March 17, 2024
10 o'clock

First Church of Christ Congregational
12 South Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06107
(860) 233-9605
www.whfirstchurch.org

To Give Online: <http://www.whfirstchurch.org/giving/give>
Or Give by Text: Text GIVE to (860) 222-7870.

*Rev. Fredd Ward, Senior Pastor
Jim Boratko, Director of Worship Arts
Jennifer deSimas, Director of Faith Formation and the John P. Webster Library*

FIRST CHURCH WEST HARTFORD

MARCH 17, 2024

PRELUDE

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

arr. Jason W. Krug

The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Michael Loveland, directing

Thoughts for Solo Marimba

Andrew Thomson

WELCOME

Rev. Fredd

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Bob Calef

One: The world belongs to God.

All: The earth and all its people.

One: How good it is how wonderful,

All: To live together in unity.

One: Love and faith come together,

All: Justice and peace join hands.

One: If Christ’s disciples keep silent

All: Even the stones will cry out.

One: Open our lips, O God,

All: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

- Iona Abbey Worship Book

†HYMN 210

Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended

HERZLIEBER JESU

†OPENING PRAYER

Engraver of the human heart, we long for your law of love to show forth with every step we take toward Easter morning. Work within us this day, that the immensity of your wisdom will be evident in every word we speak. Put a new and right spirit within us, O God, that we may leave our doubts behind and embrace the joy of your salvation, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

INVITATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

ANTHEM

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arr. Jason W. Krug

The Whitechapel Handbell Choir, Michael Loveland, directing

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 51:1-12 (OT p. 640)

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

†RESPONSE (HYMN 515)

Give Me a Clean Heart

DOUROUX

Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee. For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart and I'll follow thee.

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SERMON

Locutions: Listening to the Wisdom of the Heart

Rev. Susan Izard

HYMN 254

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

TRENTHAM

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

OFFERTORY

Now the Green Blade Riseth

arr. Craig Courtney

The First Church Choir, Carol Lim and James Boratko, piano

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With hearts washed clean and with spirits made new, we celebrate the joy of your salvation, O God. May the tithes and offerings we share this day reflect the law of love you have written on our hearts. May these gifts bear the fruit of your Spirit and bless those whose needs exceed our own. Amen.

†HYMN 207

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

RATHBUN

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

Amazing Love

SAGINA

The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE

Fuge in G Minor (the Little), BWV 578

J. S. Bach

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!