

PRELUDE *Praeludium* Anton Bruckner
Prelude on "Schmuke Dich" David Heinzman, Jr.

WELCOME

†CALL TO WORSHIP Beverli Christensen

One: It is good for God's people to gather together in unity.

All: We are here at the invitation of God.

One: In this place, God's peace stills our souls.

All: In this place, God's blessings abound.

One: Praise be to God! Christ is risen!

All: He is risen, indeed! Praise be to God!

†HYMN 233 [*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*](#) HYFRYDOL

†OPENING PRAYER

We gather with grateful hearts, O God, to behold the blessings of your love – especially the blessing of community. At this moment, open our minds to your Holy Spirit. Open our ears to the enduring truths of the Easter story. Open our hearts to welcome the risen Christ among us. And open our eyes to your glory — especially as reflected in the people assembled here and now. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Jennifer deSimas

Following the message, children may rejoin their families in the pews.

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READING [*John 20:19-31*](#) (NT p. 141)

†GLORIA PATRI (HYMN 35) GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

SERMON *The Acquittal of Thomas the Twin* 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 392 [*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*](#) UNION SEMINARY

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Word Made Flesh* Gabriel Fauré
 The First Church Choir

†DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Creator God, we are grateful for the many gifts you impart, especially the presence and power of the risen Christ. Bless these gifts, that they may show your love and shine your light in our community and our world. Amen.

†HYMN 222 [*Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*](#) W ZLOBIE LEZY

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE *Amen* Gabriel Fauré
 The First Church Choir

POSTLUDE *Carillon* Louis Vierne



Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 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>
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Rev. Fredd Ward, Senior Pastor
Jim Boratko, Director of Worship Arts
Jennifer deSimas, Director of Faith Formation and the John P. Webster Library