

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD  
*An Open and Affirming Congregation of  
The United Church of Christ*

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER  
THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Welcome ~ Bienvenidos*

May 21, 2017

10:30 AM

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CENTER CHURCH. We are glad you have joined us for this service of worship and the fellowship of this congregation. We hope that you will be both comforted and challenged by the Word of God for us today. If you are new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home. Any of our worship leaders or ushers will be able to help with your questions. If you are already a member, be sure to extend a friendly greeting to those around you, starting with someone you don't know...yet.

*Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices  
before the service of Worship begins.*

*A nursery with capable, nurturing staff is available in  
the basement of the Meeting House.*

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*"Love goes very far beyond the physical person of the beloved.  
It finds its deepest meaning in his spiritual being, his inner self.  
Whether or not he is actually present, whether or not he is still alive at all,  
ceases somehow to be of importance."*

*~ Viktor E. Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning (20<sup>th</sup> century)*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR and GREETING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

## COMING BEFORE GOD

### PRELUDE-PROCESSIONAL

Westminster Abbey

David Willcocks 1919-2015

*The Light of Christ is brought into the sanctuary.*

### CHORAL CALL TO PRAISE

Let Heavenly Music Fill This Place

Gordon Young 1918-1999

Let heavenly music fill this place and all the harmonies of heaven be heard;  
Let one grand song of praise resound, one alleluia!  
Let mighty organs peal and roll and choirs invisible be heard;  
Let anthems grand now thrill my soul, one alleluia!  
O may we join the heavenly choir that through the ages will sing on;  
In praise to Father, Spirit, Son, one alleluia!

*PLEASE STAND.*

### HYMN

No. 47

O Christ Jesus, Sent from Heaven

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

*PLEASE BE SEATED.*

### PRAYER OF INVOCATION

adapted from the UCC Statement of Faith

Leader: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior  
Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

**People: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own  
image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

Leader: You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**People: You judge people and nations by your righteous will,  
declared through prophets and apostles.**

Leader: In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,  
You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit. You call us into your church  
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, and to be your servants in  
the service of others.

**All: Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.**



## THE 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, for ever. Amen.**

(\* = traditional wording but you may use alternative wording, such as "God," "Creator," or "Mother," as seems fitting.)

## CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION

*PLEASE STAND.*

Response (sung by all)

Glory Be to God

text: *Gloria patri*, 3<sup>rd</sup> century, transl.  
music: Peter DuBois, 2007

## THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The love of God, the Peace of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Since in Christ we have been reconciled, let us share his peace with one another.

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Jean-Luc Fortune Reynolds*

*Parents: David Reynolds and Ruth Fortune*

*Godparents: Steven Olin-Dabrowski and Allison Hartman*

*PLEASE BE SEATED.*

## INVITATION AND WELCOME

Minister: They were bringing children to Jesus, that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

**People:** Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.

**Minister:** And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

## THE BLESSING OF THE WATER

Children of the Church

Bless this water, Dear God.  
Make it holy and pure with love.  
Fill it with joy and goodness.  
May it be for Hope as a fountain of abundant life.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

## CHARGE TO THE PARENTS, SPONSORS, AND CONGREGATION

**Minister:** Is it your desire that your child be baptized into this faith?

**Parents:** It is.

**Minister:** Do you promise, with God's help, by your life and teaching, to lead your child toward an understanding of the Christian gospel, and a follower of Jesus Christ?

**Parents:** We do.

**Minister:** Do you as sponsors, depending on divine grace, by every effort, and example, support these parents in their faith, care, and nurture of this child in the Christian faith?

**Sponsors:** We will.

**Minister:** Brothers and sisters of this community of faith, I commend to your love this child whom we are about to accept as a member of the family of God.

**People:** **By this sacrament of baptism, we commit ourselves to the nurture of this child.**

**Minister:** Are you ready to dedicate yourselves to Jean-Luc?

**People:** **We are prepared. We dedicate our minds and hearts to this child and to his parents.**

**Minister:** Will you strive to love and cherish them in times of struggle, as well as gladness?

**People:** We will love and cherish them always.

Minister: We acknowledge the divine spark within each child.

**People:** May we be worthy guardians of this young life. May we build a community in which he will grow old surrounded by beauty, embraced by love, and cradled in the arms of peace.

## THE ACT OF BAPTISM

### PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

Minister: We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful, for this, your child, and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ.

**ALL:** Give to Jean-Luc: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

### MUSIC FOR BAPTISM

Your Song

music: Elton John b. 1947  
lyrics: Bernie Taupin b. 1950

*Michelle Fiertek, soloist*

## FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY CELEBRATION

*PLEASE STAND.*

### THANKSGIVING and BLESSING FOR THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Leader: Gentle and loving God, through the ministry of teaching we learn about you, your creation of humankind, your trust in us to be your people, and your expectation that we will be responsible stewards of your creation. We are blessed to celebrate these teachers and

students who have recognized and responded to your call in their lives.

**ALL: We thank you and offer you praise for the faith formation ministry of this church. Help us to affirm and support the teachers in their educational ministry and the students in their faith journey. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

*PLEASE BE SEATED.*

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

Chorister Choir

Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord

Vicki Hancock Wright b. 1958

When the first sunrise awoke all creation, God smiled and declared, "This is good."  
Sun bringing brightness, light spilling from heaven,  
God's love touching all that it could.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.  
Feel God's love shining in us, around us, and through us.

When you see someone who seems sad and lonely, and  
needing a friend just like you, God gives you guidance to light up the darkness;  
God's love touching others through you.

*(Following the anthem, children in grades 1-12 may depart to attend church school.)*

**PROCLAIMING GOD'S LIVING WORD**

**GOSPEL READING**

John 14:15-21

NRSV: New Testament, p. 985

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

Above All Praise

Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847

Above all praise and majesty, Lord thou reignest evermore. Hallelujah.

**SERMON Jesus' Farewell Discourse, Part II**

The Rev. Dr. Damaris D. Whittaker

**RESPONDING IN FAITH**

*PLEASE BE SEATED.*

## CHORAL ANTHEM

I've Just Come from the Fountain

André Thomas b. 1952

His name's so sweet! His name's so sweet!  
From the fountain, Lord, I've just come from the fountain.  
Sisters, you love Jesus? Yes, Lord, I do love my Jesus!  
Sisters, you love Jesus? His name's so sweet.  
Brothers, you love Jesus? Yes, Lord, I do love my Jesus!  
Brothers, you love Jesus? His name's so sweet.  
Been drinking, my Lord! Drinking, my Lord!  
I've been drinking from the fountain! His name's so sweet.  
Backslider, do you know Him?  
Do you know that man from Galilee.  
The Prince of Peace, the Rose of Sharon!  
Mighty counselor! King Jesus!  
Backslider, drink from the fountain,  
Drinking, I've been drinking from the fountain!  
I've just come from the fountain, Lord,  
His name's so sweet. Oh, Lord, my Lord.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

*(We encourage you to use offering envelopes when giving.)*

#### Offertory Anthem

O Clap Your Hands

Ralph Vaughn Williams 1872-1958

O clap your hands, all ye people;  
shout unto God with the voice of triumph.  
For the Lord most high is terrible.  
He is a great King over all the earth.  
God is gone up with a shout,  
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.  
Sing praises to God; sing praises.  
Sing praises to our King; sing praises.  
For God is the King of all the earth.  
Sing ye praises with understanding.  
God reigneth over the heathen.

God sitteth upon the throne of His holiness.  
Sing praises unto our King. Sing praises.

*PLEASE STAND AS THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD.*

Hymn of Presentation

OLD HUNDREDTH  
text: Thomas Ken, 1674; alt.  
music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

## UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**May these gifts, O God, become action and intention, fulfilling Christ's commandment to love. Amen.**

*PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.*

THANKSGIVING and BLESSING for the Choir and Music Director

Minister: Spirit of the Living God, We thank you for the members of our choir and our Music Director, who inspire us to praise and wonder, who lift our hearts and minds in worship, who direct and sing and strum and pipe and play. We offer now our admiration for the dedication each one has shown and given you, O God; our thanks and praise for the precious time and musical talents they have shared with us.

**All: All praise and thanks to you, Creator God, for the thrilling message of rhythm, hymnody, anthem, and voice. Amen.**

## GOING FORTH

*PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.*

HYMN

When in Our Music God is Glorified

No. 561  
ENGELBERG

## BENEDICTION

*PLEASE BE SEATED.*

CHORAL RESPONSE

A Gaelic Blessing

John Rutter b. 1945

*Please enjoy the postlude or exit quietly.  
The Light of Christ is taken out into the world. Go in peace.*

**POSTLUDE**

Final from Symphonie No. 1

Louis Vierne 1870-1937