

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

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome ~ Bienvenidos

August 5, 2018

10:00 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.*

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"You are loved, someone said. Take that and eat it."
~ Mary Karr

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

COMING BEFORE GOD

PLEASE BE SEATED.

PRELUDE

What Wondrous Love Is This?

Arr. J. Raney

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING PRAYER/HYMN (sung)

Jesus is here right now.

Jesus is here.

With this bread and wine true peace you'll find;

Christ Jesus is here right now.

PLEASE STAND.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Out of many grains of wheat—bread. Out of many grapes—juice. Out of many today, we become one as we eat and drink together. The table is set for you; for us. Come into the presence of Christ.

OPENING HYMN

I Come with Joy

No. 349

DOVE OF PEACE

CONFESSION AND RESPONSE

PLEASE BE SEATED.

CALL TO CONFESSION

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE PASSING OF PEACE

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us bless each other with the peace of Christ.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S LIVING WORD

PLEASE BE SEATED.

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

GOSPEL READING

Luke 22:14-20 (NRSV)

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 11:17-27 (NRSV)

Now in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. For, to begin with, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you; and to some extent I believe it. Indeed, there have to be factions among you, for only so will it become clear who among you are genuine. When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk. What! Do you not have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you!

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord.

SERMON What It Means

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN

Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken

No. 346

EUCCHARISTIC HYMN

PLEASE BE SEATED.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

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

Offertory Anthem

The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune

R. Vaughan Williams

Center Church Summer Choir

PLEASE STAND AS THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD.

Hymn of Presentation

OLD HUNDREDTH

text: Thomas Ken, 1674; alt.

music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heav'nly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**From your bounty, generous God, we have received. In your image, we give.
May love abound. In Christ; amen.**



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PLEASE BE SEATED.

INVITATION

REMEMBERING THE STORY

COMMUNION PRAYER

SANCTUS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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, forever. Amen.

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

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING CUP

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING OF ELEMENTS

All are invited to partake in the sacrament. Please come forward via the center aisle and return to your seat via the side aisles. The elements of communion are taken by the process of intinction: Please take a piece of bread, dip it into the chalice, then eat it.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Wondrous God, as we came to this table from east, west, north, and south, now we return, but changed. We carry with us the body of Christ, in bread and cup, and in unity with those who have eaten with us this day. Thank you for sending us forth new! In Christ, we pray. Amen.

GOING FORTH

PLEASE STAND.

CLOSING HYMN

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

No. 347

LINSTEAD

BENEDICTION

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude.

POSTLUDE

Maestoso

G.F. Handel