

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ*

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome ~ Bienvenidos

August 12, 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

"I went to church thinking it would be like an epidural, that it would take the pain away.

*But church isn't like an epidural; it's like a midwife. I thought faith would say,
'I'll take away the pain,' but what it ended up saying was, 'I'll sit with you in it.'"*

~ Brene Brown

COMING BEFORE GOD

PLEASE BE SEATED.

PRELUDE

Prepare the Way

Taizé

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING PRAYER (sung)

**There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.**

PLEASE STAND.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, come! Cradle our wounded souls in your healing hands.
Come, people of God, enter into the healing love of God.

OPENING SONG

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Rick Founds

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

PSALTER READING

Psalm 23 (NRSV)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head
with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell
in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 14:1-9 (NRSV)

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief
priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him;
for they said, “Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.”

While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a
woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open
the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one
another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could
have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.”
And they scolded her. But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She
has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you
can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She
has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I
tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done
will be told in remembrance of her.”

SERMON Being Present

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN

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.)*

PLEASE BE SEATED.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

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

Offertory Music

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

Through these gifts, may our lights shine to bring wholeness to the world and glory to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOING FORTH

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.

CLOSING SONG

Lord, The Light of Your Love (Shine, Jesus, Shine)

Graham Kendrick

BENEDICTION