

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

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BRUNCH CHURCH

Welcome ~ Bienvenidos

August 25, 2019

10:00 AM

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CENTER CHURCH. Thank you for being here today! 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 silence all cell phones and other electronic devices
before the service of Worship begins.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

COMING BEFORE GOD

PLEASE BE SEATED.

GATHERING MUSIC

Jesus Loves Me

arr. W. Bradbury

CALL TO PRAYER

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN

Over My Head

No. 514

AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRADITIONAL

PLEASE BE SEATED.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (solo/sung)

Andre Keitt, Soloist

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.)*

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND PROMISES

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

OFFERTORY SOLO

Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor

Andre Keitt, soloist

I. Berlin

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 THANKSGIVING

For neighbors in this room, neighbors in this city, neighbors in all the world, we give gifts of love and hope. Please, O God, bless us as we seek to work with you to transform the world. Amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S LIVING WORD

PLEASE BE SEATED.

THE SHARING OF FOOD

PSALTER READING

Psalm 139

NRSV

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

³You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

(pause)

⁷Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

¹²even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

(pause)

¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

¹⁷How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

(pause)

¹⁹O that you would kill the wicked, O God, and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—
²⁰those who speak of you maliciously, and lift themselves up against you for evil!
²¹Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?
²²I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.

(pause)

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.
²⁴See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

SERMON God is Still Speaking Through Mystery

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

CONVERSATIONS AROUND TABLES

GOING FORTH

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

No. 506

ERIE

BENEDICTION

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude. Go in peace!

POSTLUDE

This Little Light of Mine

arr. M. Hayes