

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

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Welcome ~ Bienvenidos*

September 15, 2019

10:30 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.*

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Cry Out and Shout

K. Nystedt

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, join the crowd; don't let the parade pass you by.

**People: Let us bring our whole selves; leave no part behind.**

Leader: Show the world who you are;  
witness to the Love that knows no bounds.

**People: Join together across differences;  
rejoice in the many colors of the rainbow.**

**All: Worship God in the beauty of this holiness;  
we are the family of God!**

*PLEASE STAND.*

HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions

No. 391

NEW DIMENSIONS

## CONFESSION AND RESPONSE

*PLEASE BE SEATED.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, forgive us when we,  
personally, and as a society,  
use names and definitions as weapons to oppress  
or as fences to exclude.  
Free us from the constraints of our narrow views  
and expand our vision,  
so that we might recognize and enjoy  
the extravagant creativity of bodily expressions  
that reveal your infinite glory.  
In the name of the One who is Many, we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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.

*PLEASE BE SEATED.*

ANTHEM

Child of God

Mark A. Miller

*The Center Church Choir  
Warburton Choral Scholars Solos by  
Hannah Maynard, Phillip Fisherman, and Madison Finke*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S LIVING WORD

*PLEASE BE SEATED.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

PSALTER READING

Psalm 5

NRSV: Old Testament, pg. 480

GOSPEL READING

Luke 15:1-10

NRSV: New Testament, pg. 954

SERMON Flipping the Script

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

RESPONDING IN FAITH

*PLEASE STAND.*

HYMN

For Everyone Born

Shirley Erena Murray

TESTIMONIES

Kathryn Lewis  
Jamaly Rios

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## THE LORD'S PRAYER ("debts")

**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.)*

## THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND PROMISES

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

### OFFERTORY SOLO

Allegro (from *Concerto #2*)

W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

*Catherine Thompson Maclean, Flautist*

*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.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### GOING FORTH

*PLEASE STAND.*

### HYMN

Spirit of Love

No. 58

PERFECT LOVE

## BENEDICTION

## CHORAL RESPONSE

Reprise: Child of God

Mark A. Miller

*Go in peace!*