

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD

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

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome ~ Bienvenidos

September 16, 2018

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.*

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Meeting Jesus "is about a relationship with God that involves us
in a journey of transformation."*

~ Marcus Borg

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

COMING BEFORE GOD

PLEASE BE SEATED.

PRELUDE

Canon in D

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

CHORAL INTROIT

Be Still and Know That I Am God

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE STAND.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come from a week where we have listened to so many voices and noises in the world:

All: Strident voices in the news, emergency sirens, family voices raised in anger or gentle in love, wind and rain.

Leader: Now, let us come to listen again for the Spirit to speak, in the words of Jesus, in the silence of beauty, in each other. Come and worship God.

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

No. 18

CWM RHONNDA

CONFESSION AND RESPONSE

PLEASE BE SEATED.

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, have mercy on us. Forgive us when we talk too much, or too little. Forgive us when we turn away from listening to one another. Forgive us when we avoid listening to you. Open the word of life to us as we dwell in your grace. In Jesus' name, we pray; amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PLEASE STAND.

Response (sung by all)
Gloria

No. 756

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.

FLUTE SOLO

Andante

W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Catherine Thompson MacLean, Flautist

PROCLAIMING GOD'S LIVING WORD

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

(Afterward, the children exit to attend Church School.)

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

PSALTER READING

Psalm 19

NRSV: Old Testament, p. 488

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8:27-38

NRSV: New Testament, p. 921

SERMON Listening to Jesus

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN

Wonderful Words of Life

No. 319

WORDS OF LIFE

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

A Jubilant Song

A. Pote (b. 1945)

Center Church Choir

Kayla Fore and Charity Clark, soloists

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

Gracious God, remember in your love those who have brought gifts of any kind today, and those for whom it is given; and so follow the gifts with a blessing. In Jesus' name; amen.

GOING FORTH

PLEASE STAND.

CLOSING HYMN

O Jesus, I Have Promised

No. 493

ANGEL'S STORY

BLESSING FOR JANA & ANNE RUSSO-PRIESTLEY

BENEDICTION

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude.

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

H. Purcell (1659-1695)

Go in peace!