

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD

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

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome ~ Bienvenidos

November 11, 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

"Draw the circle, draw the circle wide."

~ Mark Miller

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

COMING BEFORE GOD

PLEASE BE SEATED.

PRELUDE

Adagio (Sonata I)

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

Spirit of the Living God

Warburton Choral Scholars

PLEASE STAND.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: From where have you come this day to worship God
here at Center Church?

People: *(Shout out name of city, town or neighborhood where you live)*

Leader: Welcome, Hartford and West Hartford, New Britain and Hamden,
Windsor and New Haven, and everywhere else! God has called us
across boundaries of all kinds to sing and pray and be at peace
together today. Let us worship God!

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.

OPENING HYMN

You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim

No. 305

HANOVER

CONFESSION AND RESPONSE

PLEASE BE SEATED.

CALL TO CONFESSION

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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.

SOLO

It Is Enough

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Matthew Cossack, Baritone

**BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE OF
MAEGEN GARTHWAITE & KYLE CASEY**

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.

INTRODUCTION

REAFFIRMATION OF VOWS

BLESSING OF RINGS

MARRIAGE PRAYER

(Afterward, the children exit to attend church school.)

PROCLAIMING GOD'S LIVING WORD

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Ruth (selections)

NRSV: Old Testament

SERMON Boundaries

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN

Draw the Circle Wide

PLEASE BE SEATED.

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 REMAIN SEATED.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND PROMISES

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

Offertory Music

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Arr. P. Wilhousky

Center Church Choir

*(In honor of our veterans and in recognition of today's
100th anniversary of the end of World War I)*

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 all we have received; thanks. On whatever we may give, please multiply it with your blessings, wondrous God. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

GOING FORTH

PLEASE STAND.

CLOSING HYMN

We Love Your Realm, O God

No. 312

ST. THOMAS

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Hallelujah

Caribbean Melody

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

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary

Jeremiah Clarke (1674-1707)