



FOLLOW
ME
AND I WILL
MAKE YOU
FISHERS
of MEN



Matthew 4:19



Sunday, January 26, 2020

**As Center Church, we respond to God by
nurturing faith, and building authentic
connections and relationships.**

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

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Welcome ~ Bienvenidos

January 26, 2020

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

We Thank Thee

D. Buxtehude (1637-1707)

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

We Will Follow the Light

OPENING WORDS

Leader: This morning, we come with our hopes and expectations for our journey of faith, hoping that we will hear Jesus' call to us to follow him. We trust that your power is at work in us, teaching us truth, healing our sicknesses, increasing our joy, and leading us home to your house of prayer.

**All: Let's worship together in joy,
as Jesus calls us to follow and learn!**

PLEASE STAND.

OPENING HYMN

No. 159

As with Gladness Those of Old

DIX

CENTERING PRAYER

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Following the passing of peace, the children exit to attend church school.)

PLEASE BE SEATED.

SOLO

Don't You Weep When I'm Gone

Arr. H. T. Burleigh

PROCLAIMING GOD'S LIVING WORD

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:12-23

NRSV: New Testament, pg. 881

SERMON Leaving the Boats Behind

The Rev. Craig Cowing

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN

No. 173

You Have Come down to the Lakeshore

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

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.)*

PLEASE BE SEATED.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Once To Every Man and Nation

D. S. York

Center Church Choir

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

Our God, you have given us many gifts. Help us to use these gifts to serve your children wherever they may be. Help us to follow Jesus as he calls us to bring your message of hope, healing, and reconciliation. We bring these gifts to you in service and we dedicate them to you. Amen.

GOING FORTH

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.

HYMN

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

No. 172

GALILEE

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Amen

Danish

Please be seated for the postlude. Go in peace!

POSTLUDE

Toccatà in F

D. Buxtehude (1637-1707)

About Today's Worship Leader

I grew up in Meriden, Connecticut. Center Congregational Church is where I was baptized, confirmed, and ordained. I attended Lycoming College in Pennsylvania and Andover Newton Theological School, where I earned my M.Div. and S.T. M. in Church History. I have served congregations in Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Maine, and most recently in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. My interests include genealogy, history, painting, bonsai, and music. I play the cello in the Cheshire Symphony Orchestra. I have three adult children from my first marriage. Anita and I live in Rocky Hill.

~ Rev. Craig Cowing

TODAY'S SERVICE & MINISTRIES PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leader: Rev. Craig Cowing

Musician: Bob Gilbert

Worship Coordinators: John Border and Steven Lewis

Usher: John Border

Reader: Paul Bobbitt

Coffee Ministry: The French Family

Refreshments Coordinator: Priscilla French

FLOWER MEMORIAL & CARD RECIPIENTS

The flowers on display today are given in loving memory of parents, Wilfred & Margaret Maclean and William & Elena Tuthill by David & Nancy Maclean.

Today's card recipients are Logan & Dani Singerman (congratulations.)

Please sign a card at the Remembrance Area after Worship.

LET THERE BE LIGHT MEMORIAL

January 29 ~ Joseph Arcieri by his wife, Rosemary Arcieri

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

January 29 ~ Dimekwan French

January 30 ~ Nataliya Cicero

January 31 ~ Sarah Gale

THIS WEEK AT CENTER CHURCH

Today	10:30 Worship Service and Church School; 12:00 Adult Education Class (Church House); 3:00 Sunday Community Meals (Church House)
Monday	6:30 CET Meeting (Church House)
Tuesday	11:00 Staff Meeting
Wednesday	7:30 Choir Rehearsal

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bruce Bidwell, Cindy Blutin & family, Jennifer Boutin, Joyce Buckingham, Nilsa Cierpikowski, Debbie Downes, Richard Jacques, Polly Libby, Jane Macomber, Carmen Mahone, Sara Markham, Joan McLean, Danny Mullen, Lucille & Van Parker, Margo Raymond & daughter, Kelly, The Rathnam Family, Earl Sanderson, Jason Sipes, Norman Stanley, Liz Stoever, Steven Thompson, Marilyn Watson, The City of Hartford, The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, The First Church of Christ in Hartford, The State of Connecticut, The President of the United States, and all victims of violence & natural disasters

WELCOME TO CENTER CHURCH!

Would you like to learn more?

Have our pastor contact you?

Interested in volunteering?

*Please fill out this form →
and drop it in the offering plate.*

*We look forward to speaking
with you!*

Center Church

The First Church of Christ in Hartford
*Member of
The United Church of Christ*

Welcome! *¡Bienvenidos!*

- I am searching for a church home, and would like more information about Center Church.
- I would like to learn how I can help with the ministries of Center Church.
- I would like the minister to contact me.

Name

Address

Telephone #

Email Address

**Please fill out this card and
place it in the offering plate.**

IN CASE OF FIRE OR OTHER EMERGENCY

Exit swiftly by the nearest safe door - two exits are located near the pulpit, and three exits are located at the rear of the sanctuary.

Help people around you who may have children or mobility challenges.

Call 911. Don't assume someone else has already done so!

Move to the Church House (corner of Gold & Lewis), so we can be sure everyone is accounted for.



Sunday Adult Education Faith Formation Classes

**First-floor Parlor of the Church House:
January 26 and February 2 (after Worship.)**

Through February 2, we are discussing a few of the speeches/writings of Martin Luther King, Jr. On January 26, we are discussing "The Other America", an address he gave on March 12, 1968. The following is an excerpt:

... [T]here are literally two Americas. Every city in our country has this kind of dualism, this schizophrenia, split at so many points and so every city ends up being two cities rather than one, there are two Americas. One America is beautiful situations. In this America, millions of people have the milk of prosperity and the honey of equality flowing before them. This America is the habitat of millions of people who have food and material necessities for their bodies, culture and education of their minds, freedom and human dignity for their spirits. In this America children grow up in the sunlight of opportunity. [4:03] But there is another America, and this other America has a daily ugliness about it that transforms ebullency of hope into the fatigue of despair. In this other America thousands and thousands of people, men in particular, walk the streets and search for jobs that do not exist. In this other America, millions of people are forced to live in vermin-filled depressing housing conditions where they do not have the privilege of having wall to wall carpet but all too often they end up with wall to wall rats and roaches.

On February 2, we will discuss other well-known MLK quotations.

**Starting February 9 After Worship:
Resume Discussing Essays from
The New York Times 1619 Project**

If you have any questions or suggestions,

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING Congregation. "We include into full participation in the life of this church persons of any age, race, economic status, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and physical, emotional and mental capacity" (from the statement adopted October 23, 1994.) In recognition of the richness of backgrounds of our congregation, a **DIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES** will find expression in our worship services. Center Church offers an **OPEN COMMUNION**. Adults and children from all religious backgrounds are invited to partake.

TEXT ALERTS To receive text alerts regarding church activities and cancellations, please text the word CENTER to (860) 300-3697. (Message and data rates may apply according to your data plan.)

FACEBOOK LIVE We livestream our worship services on Facebook each week, and your presence here constitutes your permission for your image to be shown. If you prefer not to be seen, speak with the minister or whoever is operating the phone up front to determine where a good seat might be to avoid the camera. Our viewership is growing and we are excited to welcome a congregation in cyberspace!

FREE PARKING is available during Sunday Worship Services at the Travelers Plaza Garage off Prospect Street (next to the Hartford Club.) The garage closes at 1:00pm (12:00pm during Summer services). On-street parking is also available on Gold Street and on the west side of Lewis Street, and is FREE on Sundays.

REST ROOMS are located in the basement of the Meeting House. Please use the stairs in the southeast corner of the building. For safety, please have an adult accompany your child to the restroom.

CHURCH SCHOOL is held at the Church House (60 Gold Street) for preschool to 12th Grade. Children are to remain with their families in the Meeting House during worship until they depart for Church School following the Children's Moment. Please pick your child up promptly at 12:00pm. For their safety, children will remain with their Church School instructor until an adult picks them up.

CHILDCARE and NURSERY care are provided by trained, capable, and nurturing staff and volunteers, and is available in the Meeting House basement for infants and toddlers (up to two years of age.) A nursery without staff is also located on the second floor of the Church House.

CURRENT SUNDAY ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES are held in the Church House (60 Gold Street) at Noon. Announcements regarding Adult Education classes are announced in our publications.

HANDICAPPED ACCESS to the sanctuary is via the lift outside at the south end of the portico. If possible, please call the church office in advance for assistance in using the lift.

Please feel free to confer with a minister regarding our **INQUIRER'S CLASSES** for **POTENTIAL MEMBERS, BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS** or **COMMITMENT CEREMONIES**. The latest issue of **CENTER CHURCH NEWS** is available in the literature rack at the back of the Meeting House and at the Church House (60 Gold Street).

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD

A member of the United Church of Christ (UCC)

CENTER CHURCH, 60 Gold Street, Hartford, CT 06103

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm

Library Hours: Wednesdays, 10:00am to Noon, or by appointment.

P 860.249.5631 ★ F 860.246.3915 ★ www.centerchurchhartford.org

Transitional Minister: The Reverend Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse (ext. 202)

Minister Emeritus: The Reverend J. Alan McLean

Director of Music/Organist: Robert F. Gilbert (ext. 204)

Sunday School Administrator: Ileia Belton (ext. 210)

Church Administrator: Marie Ferrantino (ext. 209)

Bookkeeper: Brenda Russell (ext. 201)

Receptionist/Office Assistant: Monique Young (ext. 200)

Sextons: Thomas St. Amant and Ileia Belton

Sunday Meals Program Coordinator: Carrie Howe

Nursery Care: Tina Franklin

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