



Order of Worship for
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020, 10:00am

*Welcome to Worship at Center Church!
We are delighted that you are here today.*



CHIMES

WELCOME

PIANO PRELUDE: Great is Thy Faithfulness

arr. L. Goss

GATHERING WORDS

HYMN: For the Beauty of the Earth

NCH 28
tune: Dix

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(adapted from Sarah Are)

Creator God, sometimes life takes us where we don't expect, and we struggle with how to respond. You asked the Israelites to plant gardens and build homes while in exile. You asked the prophets to speak challenging truths. You asked the disciples to drop their nets and follow you. And you ask us to love bigger than we may want to in the midst of pandemic and racism and financial crisis. Being faithful has never been easy, and as a result, we often miss the mark. Forgive us for holding tightly to human-made plans. Unravel the grip we have on our own agenda, so that we can make room for you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 29:1-7 (NRSV)

Reader: Robin Roy

MEDITATION: Nobody Planned on This

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

MUSIC: Let Us Break Bread Together

Traditional

David Reynolds, piano solo

WEAVING PRAYERS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER ("debts")

HYMN: Jeremiah Sent a Letter

NCH 332/tune: Beach Spring

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**Jeremiah sent a letter to the folks in Babylon,
Long had they been stuck in darkness, waiting for to greet the dawn.
They had suffered much in exile, toiling hard in angst and fear.
Young and old were forced to labor, kept in place by sword and spear.**

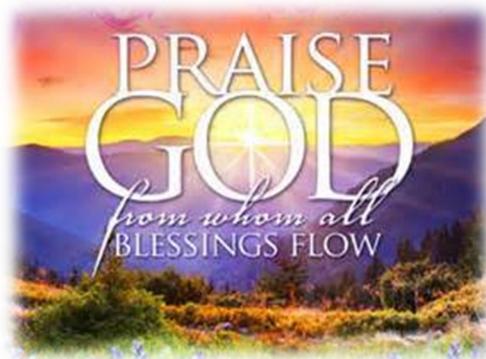
**Though they wanted news of freedom, he told them to hunker down.
"Build your houses, plant your gardens, raise your children in this town."
Jeremiah told the people, "make the best of your home here.
Seek the welfare of the city; through your lives, God's truth endear."**

**Sometimes, Lord, we find ourselves in places we don't want to be -
Places full of pain and anguish, places craving jubilee.
May we in the times of exile serve our God courageously,
In the moments of our trials, may we love all faithfully.**

BLESSING

CHORAL RESPONSE: Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Caribbean trad.



Our thanks to the everyone who created today's service.

Go in peace!