



**center church**  
the first church of christ UCC



**Order of Worship for  
July 11, 2021, 10:00am**

***Welcome to IN-PERSON and Online Worship at Center Church!  
We are delighted that you are here today.***

***Worshippers at the Meeting House:***

- Are required to wear masks, even while singing
  - Must maintain social distance protocols
- Will not leave their pews during Passing the Peace of Christ
- Can wave or use another non-physical gesture to Pass the Peace

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CENTER CHURCH. Whether you are joining us in-person or virtually, we are glad you are here with 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.*

*But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. ~ 1 Samuel 16:7*

*Man's law changes with his understanding of man. Only the laws of the spirit remain always the same. ~ Crow proverb*

## CHIMES

### PRELUDE:

Sonata for Flute and Piano

F.J.Haydn

Catherine Thompson Maclean, Flute

## WELCOME to Center Church!

### LITANY: WE GATHER TO LEARN TO LOVE AS GOD LOVES

#### Reader One:

Who knows about Ellis Island? Who knows about Angel Island? Beginning in 1876 there was a great effort made in our nation to bring about the erection of the Statue of Liberty, and it was dedicated in 1886. Its official name is Liberty Enlightening the World. We learned that the Chinese Exclusion Act, passed in 1882, was our first federal law to single out an entire group for exclusion from our country based on race or ethnicity. Ben Franklin had referred to Germans as "swarms of swarthy aliens who herd together". A minister in Boston had called the Irish "the most ignorant and barbarian race", and they were considered to be such a threat that riots against them broke out in American cities. But the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed to maintain "white racial purity". Foreshadowing the 1921 Tulsa massacre, rioters attacked the Chinese community in Los Angeles in the 1870's, lynching 17 Chinese men and boys, including a prominent doctor.

#### Response:

Each of us and each of "them", whoever "they" may be, is a beloved child of God. When will we ever learn?

**Reader Two:**

Who knows about the Jim Crow laws or the Trail of Tears? Who knows about the Chinese Exclusion Act? In 1870, the 15th Amendment to our Constitution recognized the voting rights of African American men; and in 1920, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment recognized at long last the suffrage rights of women. We learned that Professor Erika Lee's father was such a big fan of President Franklin D. Roosevelt that he named his Brooklyn restaurant the "New Deal" -- even though he could not vote. Why? Because by the 1930's all Asians were barred from the United States and, if they were already here, from becoming naturalized citizens--and only citizens can vote. Poll taxes and literacy tests were made illegal by the Voting Rights Act of 1965, but in 2013, the North Carolina legislature requested data, by race, on the use of a number of voting practices, and then implemented stringent new voting restrictions with the intent to discriminate against Black voters.

**Response:**

For what we have done, God forgive us.

**Reader Three:**

World War II is sometimes referred to as a war for democracy. We learned that the 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, whose members were Nisei (born in the United States to parents who immigrated from Japan), became the most highly decorated unit in our military history--while their families were being held in internment camps by their own country. Like African American soldiers (such as the Tuskegee Airmen) and Native American soldiers (such as the Navajo Code Talkers), they were willing to fight and die for democracy abroad while being denied their democratic rights at home.

**Response:**

God looks at our hearts, not our outward appearances. Help us to do the same.

**Reader Four:**

The election of President Obama was a significant milestone, as is the service of Vice President Harris, on the road to racial justice; and in 2015, the Supreme Court struck down state bans on same-sex marriage. We learned that the long, ugly history of anti-Asian racism and violence is not just in our country's past. As of this March, anti-Asian hate crimes had spiked 150% since the beginning of the pandemic. In 2019, the FBI found that hate crimes were on the rise, that nearly 1 in 5 hate crimes was motivated by anti-LGBTQ bias, and that the number of victims of anti-Latino or Hispanic hate crimes had risen over 21% from the prior year. One commentator observed that we are having a "democratization of hate".

**Response:** O God, forgive us.

**OPENING HYMN:**

NCH 575 O For a World

Miriam Therese Winter

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE:** *(If attending in person, please stay in your pews and wave.)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING:**

Deuteronomy 10:17 to 22

**NEW TESTAMENT READING:**

Matthew 25: 31 to 40

**SERMON:** (Video)

“Anti-Asian Hate: We Too Were The Stranger”

Rabbi Angela Buchdahl

**HYMN:**

NCH 572 When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land

Go Down, Moses

**A PRAYER FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN:**

**Leader:** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28. *It has always been so.*

**People:** O Lord, grant us ears to hear and minds to understand.

**Leader:** So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. Ephesians 2:19. *It has always been so.*

**People:** O Lord, forge in our hearts your words, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God”. Matthew 5:9

**Leader:** Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you are also in the body...for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 23:1. *It has always been so.*

**People:** O Lord, Remind us and our neighbors of Good Friday and Easter... God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son for us to have everlasting life.

**Leader:** He has told you, O Man what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8. *It has always been so.*

**People:** O Lord, hear our plea to strengthen and renew creation, by what we are doing... by what we are saying...by what we are legislating...by what we are building...by what we are celebrating ...and show us who we are...where we are...how we are...and why we are as your beloved daughters and sons!

**Leader:** If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness. Galatians 5:22. *It has always been so.*

**Unison:** And Jesus answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all you heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 20:27

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### CLOSING HYMN:

NCH 594 How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

Katherine Lee Bates &  
Miriam Therese Winter

### GOING FORTH TO MAKE OUR WORLD A BETTER PLACE

### POSTLUDE:

What The World Needs Now

Burt Bacharach

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## TODAY'S SERVICE & MINISTRIES PARTICIPANTS

We thank the following members of the Adult Faith Formation class for creating and leading today's service: Paul and Tina Bobbitt; Richard and Sara Markham; Robin Roy; and Alvin and Lesley Morgan Thompson.

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## CALL TO A SPECIAL MEETING

### Sunday July 11 during worship

The Center Church Congregation is cordially invited by the Search Team to make a good will affirmation of their candidate of choice for the ***Coordinator of Social Justice and Faith Formation*** position.

***Eric Hearst*** has been properly vetted and thoroughly interviewed for this position, and we are excited for him to join our season of change and adventure in 2021.

Please join us during worship **THIS SUNDAY, July 11<sup>th</sup>** to meet Eric.

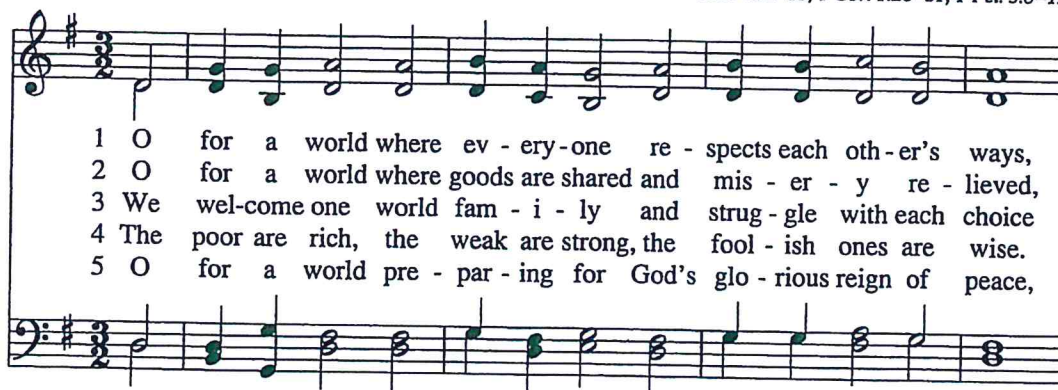
~ Andre Keitt and Alicia Akers, for the Search Team

# O for a World

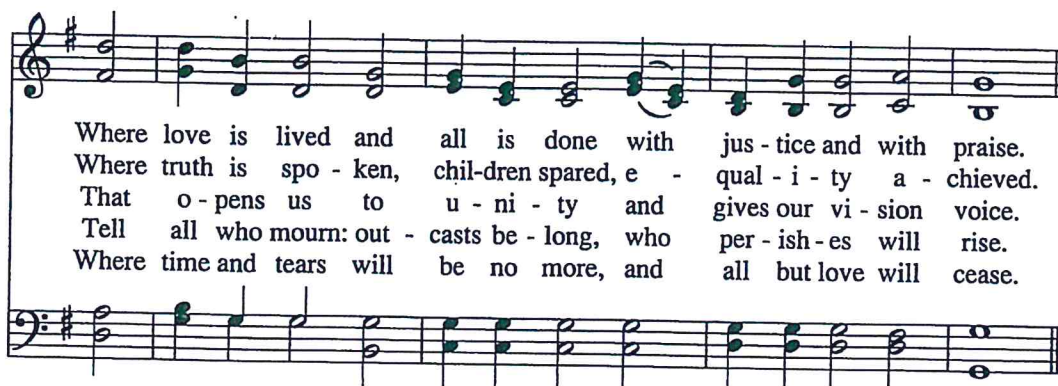
575

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32-35; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; 1 Pet. 3:8-12



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,  
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.  
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Tune: AZMON C.M.

Carl G. Gläser, 1828

Adapt. Lowell Mason in Modern Psalmody, 1839

# When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

572

*African-American spiritual; alt.*

*Exod. 3:7-12; 7:16; 8:1, 20; 9:1, 13; 10:3*

*Unison*

1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, Let my peo-ple go,  
 2 "Thus spoke our God," bold Mo - ses said, "Let my peo-ple go;  
 3 No more in bond - age shall they toil, Let my peo-ple go,  
 4 Oh, let us all from bond-age flee, Let my peo-ple go,

Op - pressed so hard they could not stand, Let my peo-ple go.  
 If not I'll smite your first-born dead, Let my peo-ple go."  
 Nor spill their blood on E - gypt's soil, Let my peo-ple go.  
 And let us all in Christ be free, Let my peo-ple go.

*Refrain*

Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land,

Tell old Pha - raoh to let my peo-ple go.

*According to historian Jon Michael Spencer, this is the most famous of the spirituals to speak subtly of the desire the enslaved had for freedom, believing that God would set them free just as God had set the Hebrew people free from captivity in Egypt.*

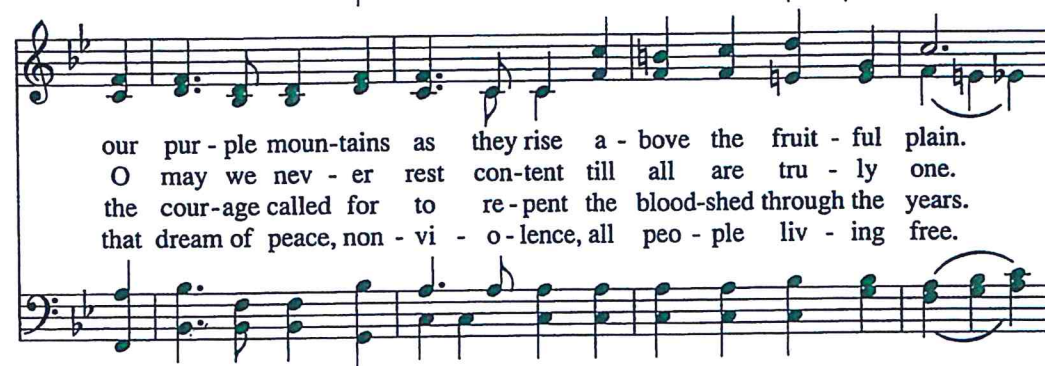
Tune: GO DOWN, MOSES 8.5.8.5. with refrain  
*African-American spiritual*

## How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies

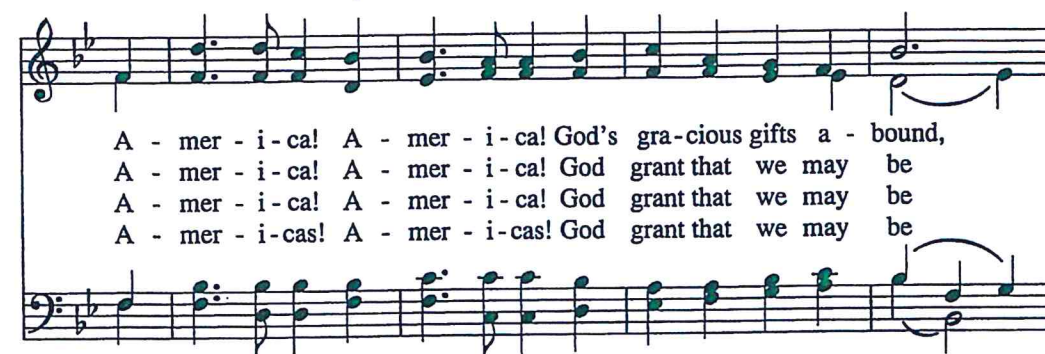
St. 1, Katharine Lee Bates, 1893; alt.  
St. 2, 3, 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993



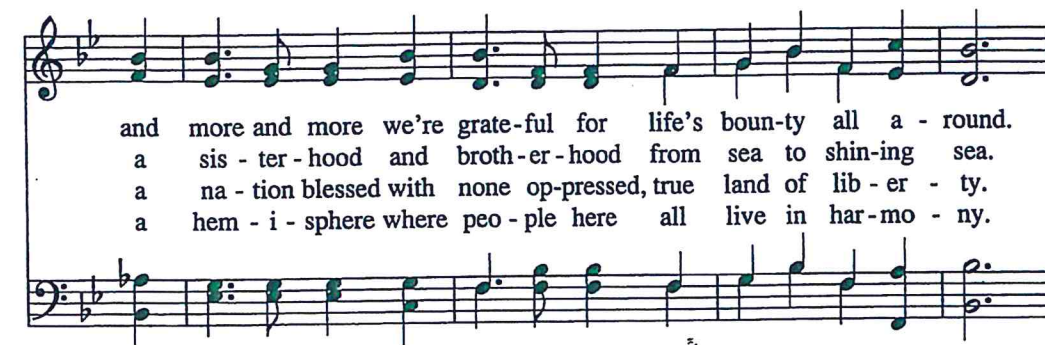
1 How beau-ti-ful, our spa-cious skies, our am - ber waves of grain;  
2 In - dig - e-nous and im - mi - grant, our daugh-ters and our sons:  
3 How beau-ti-ful, sin - cere la - ment, the wis - dom born of tears,  
4 How beau-ti-ful, two con - ti - nents, and is - lands in the sea



our pur - ple moun-tains as they rise a - bove the fruit - ful plain.  
O may we nev - er rest con-tent till all are tru - ly one.  
the cour-age called for to re-pent the blood-shed through the years.  
that dream of peace, non - vi - o - lence, all peo - ple liv - ing free.



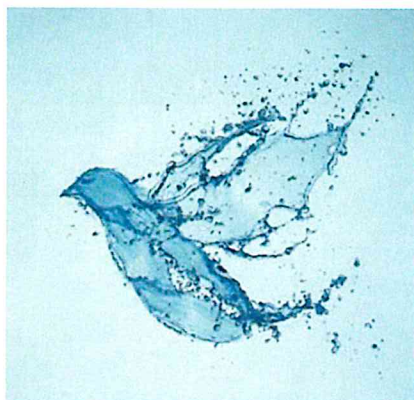
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God's gra-cious gifts a - bound,  
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God grant that we may be  
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God grant that we may be  
A - mer - i - cas! A - mer - i - cas! God grant that we may be



and more and more we're grate-ful for life's boun-ty all a - round.  
a sis - ter - hood and broth-er - hood from sea to shin-ing sea.  
a na - tion blessed with none op-pressed, true land of lib - er - ty.  
a hem - i - sphere where peo - ple here all live in har-mo - ny.

Tune: MATERNA C.M.D.  
Samuel A. Ward, 1882





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## Center Church News & Announcements

Subscribe to our E-News newsletter for up-to-date news and happenings at Center Church:

<https://centerchurchhartford.org/>

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/OzymYij/CenterChurch>

And, don't forget to follow us on FB!



[\(860\) 249-5631](tel:(860)249-5631)



[INFO@CCHARTFORD.ORG](mailto:INFO@CCHARTFORD.ORG)



[FACEBOOK](#)

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**LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ~ PLEASE REQUEST FROM AN USHER.**

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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. Church School is not held during the Summer.

**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** 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 E-NEWS** is available on our church website. If you would like a paper copy mailed to you, please contact Sioux Wilusz.

## **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: Tuesday thru Friday, 8:30am to 3:30pm

Library Hours: by appointment.

P 860.249.5631 \* F 860.246.3915 \* [www.centerchurchhartford.org](http://www.centerchurchhartford.org)

Interim Minister: The Reverend Dr. Donique McIntosh (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 Office Manager: Sioux Wilusz (ext. 209)

Bookkeeper: Brenda Russell (ext. 201)

Sextons: Thomas St. Amant and Ileia Belton

Sunday Meals Program Coordinator: Carrie Howe

Nursery Care: Tina Franklin

Hymns and Service Music reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-708141.

**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.