



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



Order of Worship for AUGUST 1, 2021, 10:00am

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

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.

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

*Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices
before the service of Worship begins.*

CHIMES

PRELUDE:

NCH 84 This is the Day

*Les Garrett
Dan Theriault & Anita Hawkins, Guitar and Vocals*

WELCOME to Center Church!

Andre Keitt

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Edwin Perez Jr.

Pastor: You call your people to pray and praise in many ways.

This day, bring us together just as you called the people of Israel to gather manna in the desert to eat and sustain life.

All: God of unity, give us this day our daily bread.

Pastor: Offer us the nutrients we need to remain connected to you.

**All: As spiritual beings, we desire to receive food that endures—
faith, hope, and love.**

Pastor: God of grace, give us this day our daily bread.

All: All life is created and nourished by you!

Pastor: May we grow into new circles of understanding and being, reflecting the ways in which we have been touched by your holy manna.

Unison: Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.

INVOCATION *

The Rev. Edwin Perez Jr.

Holy Spirit, we receive the things you desire to offer us today and every day.

Grant us wisdom and openness to your Word and use its teachings to bless our whole selves.

PLEASE STAND, IF ABLE

OPENING HYMN:

Lord I Lift Your Name on High

*R. Founds
Dan Theriault & Anita Hawkins, Guitar and Vocals*

Lord I lift Your name on high

Lord I love to sing Your praises

I'm so glad You're in my life

I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show the way

From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky

Lord I lift Your name on high

PLEASE BE SEATED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andre Keitt

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

SCRIPTURES:

Anita Hawkins, Liturgist

Hebrew Bible: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 (NRSV)

New Testament: John 6:24-35 (NRSV)

SERMON:

The Rev. Edwin Perez Jr.

PLEASE STAND, IF ABLE

HYMN:

Pass it On

Kurt Kaiser

Dan Theriault & Anita Hawkins, Ukulele and Vocals

Vs. 1: It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
That's how it is with God's Love,
Once you've experienced it,
You spread the love to everyone
You want to pass it on.

Vs. 2: What a wondrous time is spring,
When all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
That's how it is with God's love,
Once you've experienced it.
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
You want to pass it on.

Vs. 3: I wish for you my friend
This happiness that I've found;
You can depend on God
It matters not where you're bound,
I'll shout it from the mountain top - PRAISE GOD!
I want the world to know
The Lord of love has come to me
I want to pass it on.

PLEASE BE SEATED

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Liturgy

The Rev. Edwin Perez Jr.

One: The Lord be with you!

All: And also, with you!

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Consecration

As one body, we embrace the bread of life.

Sharing one cup, we drink of the new fruit of the vine--the new covenant of unity.

With one voice, we lift up our prayers

to you, eternal One, who embraces our differences

yet rejoices in our unity in this one communion act. **Amen.**

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: There are individual needs and those that we share as a people. O God, you help us in them all. You satisfy our souls with your lifegiving promises and sustain us to serve you and others. Today, we lift our voices in gratitude as one. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

PLEASE STAND, IF ABLE

CLOSING HYMN:

Lord the Light of Your Love is Shining (Shine Jesus Shine)

Graham Kendrick

Dan Theriault & Anita Hawkins, Guitar and Vocals

Vs. 1: Lord, the light of your love is shining

In the midst of the darkness, shining

Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us

Set us free by the truth you now bring us

Shine on me, shine on me

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine

Fill this land with the Father's glory

Blaze, Spirit, blaze

Set our hearts on fire

Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light

Vs. 2: Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me (To Refrain)

Vs. 3: As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me (To Refrain)

PLEASE BE SEATED

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

Lord the Light of Your Love is Shining (Shine Jesus Shine) Graham Kendrick
Dan Theriault & Anita Hawkins, Guitar and Vocals

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light

***Our thanks to everyone who created today's service.
Go in peace!***

* From Worship Ways UCC, with some adaptations

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

This Is the Day

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.
St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison
Eb Bb7

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our
2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus
3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

God has made; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
rose a - gain; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
Spir - it came; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joyce and be
glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joyce and be
glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joyce and be

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.
glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.
glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

Tune: THIS IS THE DAY Irr.
Les Garrett, 1967

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.

FLOWER MEMORIAL

The flowers on display today are given in celebration of Rev. Dr. Donique McIntosh's ministry to Center Church

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



[FACEBOOK](https://www.facebook.com/centerchurchhartford)

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

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

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Would you like to learn more about Center Church?? Email us at info@cchartford.org

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. 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.