



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



## **Order of Worship for August 22, 2021, 10:00am**

Welcome to Online Worship at Center Church!  
We are delighted that you are with us today.

## CHIMES

### ORGAN PRELUDE:

Abide With Me

*Arr. D. Bish  
Bob Gilbert, Organist*

### WELCOME to Center Church!

*Rev. John Merz*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Leader: Our souls long for your courts, O Lord of hosts;*

*People: Happy are we who dwell in your house and are ever praising you!*

*Leader: Holy God, we gather together to worship in your blessed presence, within the peace and security of your sanctuary.*

*People: We join with all creation in worshipping our Glorious God.*

*Leader: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.*

*People: As we gather, we acknowledge that this beloved sanctuary is only a sign and symbol of your eternally abiding presence.*

*Leader: Come let us worship the God who welcomes us, protects us and gives us eternal sanctuary.*

*(adapted from Psalm 84)*

### INVOCATION

*Rev. John Merz*

Good and Gracious God, we thank you that you have called us safely to this place. We gladly surrender our lives to you in worship and praise. We invite Your beautiful Holy Spirit to move freely among us. Come dwell in each of our hearts. Equip us, challenge us, comfort us, teach us.

Inspire us as we learn more about your majestic ways. As we meet now may we behold Your beauty and encounter your grace. We ask all this in the wonderful name of Jesus.

### OPENING HYMN: Hymn 436

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

*CWM RHONDDA*

# God of Grace and God of Glory

436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.  
in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.  
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.  
John Hughes, c. 1907

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**SCRIPTURES:** 1 KINGS 8: 1, 6, 28-30, 41-43 (NRSV)  
EPHESIANS 6:10-17 (NRSV)

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive. Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

.....

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

**SERMON: "Armor of God"**

*Rev. John Merz*

**MUSICAL RESPONSE:** Fugue in G (“Jig”)

*J.S. Bach*  
*Bob Gilbert, Organist*

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (DEBTS)

**CLOSING HYMN:** “Onward, Christian People”

*S. Baring-Gould*

1. Onward, Christian people, marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.  
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;  
forward into battle see his banners go!  
Refrain:  
Onward, Christian people, marching as to war,  
with the cross of Jesus going on before.
2. At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee;  
on then, Christian people, on to victory!  
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;  
Siblings, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.  
(Refrain)
3. Like a mighty army moves the church of God;  
Siblings, we are treading where the saints have trod.  
We are not divided, all one body we,  
one in hope and doctrine, one in charity.  
(Refrain)
4. Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,  
but the church of Jesus constant will remain.  
Gates of hell can never gainst that church prevail;  
we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.  
(Refrain)
5. Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,  
blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.  
Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King,  
this through countless ages we and angels sing.  
(Refrain)

## **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)

**ORGAN POSTLUDE:** Trumpet Tune

*J. Stanley*

*Bob Gilbert, Organist*

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

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

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## **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, 9:30am to 3:30pm

Library Hours by Appointment

P 860.249.5631 ★ F 860.246.3915 ★ [www.centerchurchhartford.org](http://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: Emily McKenna (ext. 200)

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](mailto: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!

### **Church Information for when our building is open -**

**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 us at [info@cchartford.org](mailto:info@cchartford.org) / 860-249-5631.