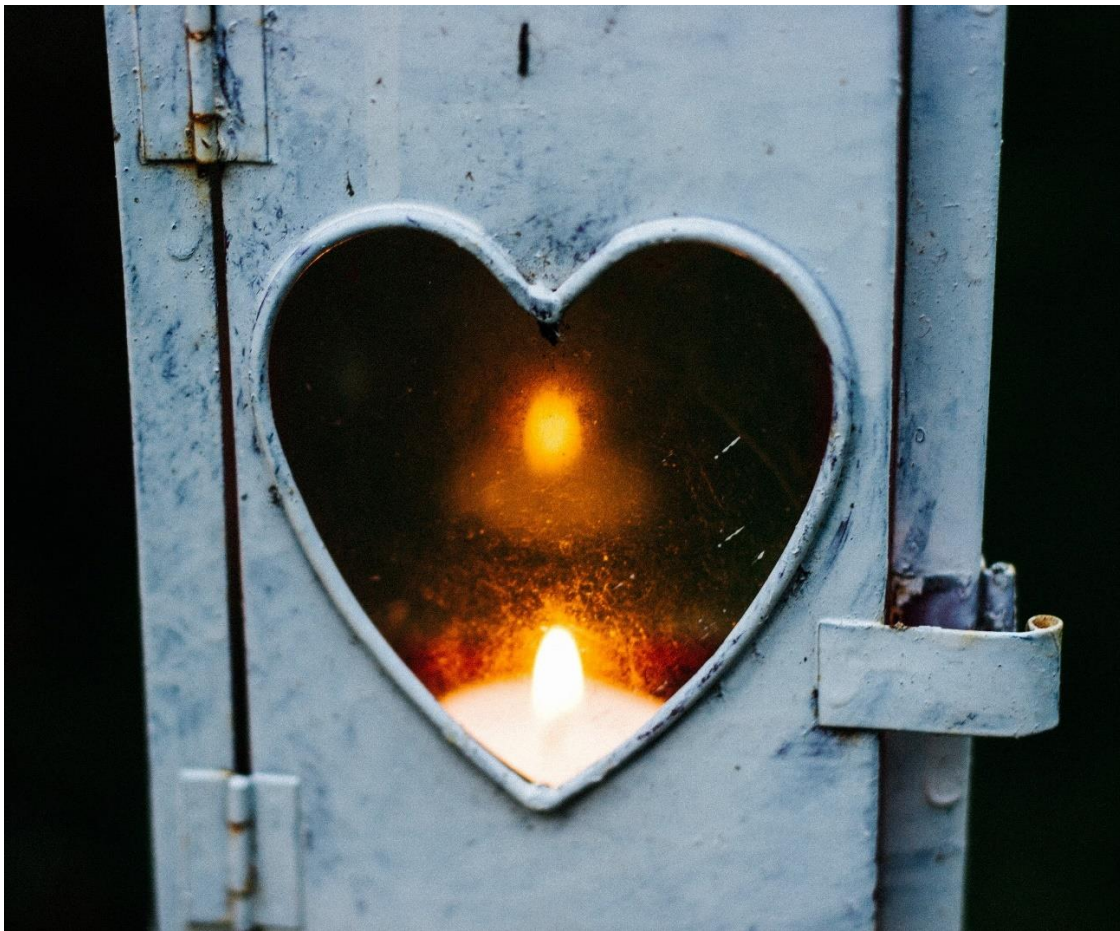




*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of The United Church of Christ*



Order of Worship for September 12, 2021, 10:30am

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

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE: Adagio

F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Bob Gilbert, Organist

WELCOME to Center Church!

Rev. Marilyn Kendrix

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: *On this morning, as every morning,*

People: *we are surrounded by God's grace.*

Leader: *In these moments, as every moment,*

People: *Our call to discipleship by Jesus is hard.*

Leader: *At this time in our history, as in all times,*

People: *we struggle to love as Jesus would have us love.*

Leader: *Throughout this day, as every day,*

People: *we live in hope that we may be inspired by the Spirit to love.*

Come, let us worship our Loving God.

OPENING HYMN: "We Are Your People"

Brian Wren

printed on the next page

We Are Your People

Brian Wren, 1973; rev. 1993

Unison

1 We are your peo - ple: Spir - it of grace,
 2 Joined in com - mu - ni - ty, trea - sured and fed,
 3 Rich in di - ver - si - ty, help us to live
 4 Glad of tra - di - tion, help us to see

you dare to make us Christ to our neigh - bors
 may we dis - cov - er gifts in each oth - er,
 clos - er than neigh-bors, o - pen to strang - ers,
 in all life's chang-ing, where Christ is lead - ing,

1 & 6 Last time, end 2-5

of ev - ery cul - ture and place. lead and be led.
 will - ing to clash and for - give.
 a - ble to ef - forts should be.
 where our best

5 Give, as we ven-ture
 jus-tice and care
 (peace-ful, in-sist-ing,
 risk-ing, re-sist-ing),
 wis-dom to know when and where.

6 Spir-it, u-nite us,
 make us, by grace,
 will-ing and read-y,
 Christ's liv-ing bod-y,
 lov-ing the whole hu-man race.

Originally written in 1973 for the hymnal of the United Reformed Church in England and Wales, New Church Praise, this text was revised by Brian Wren in 1993. The tune is named for the composer's father-in-law, who served as chair of the Congregational Union of England and Wales.

Tune: WHITFIELD Irr.
 John Wilson, 1975

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Dr. Eric Hearst!

VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Loving of God, You call to us from the depths of our hearts, where we long for connection with you and with one another. You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods, where human pain and possibility are most urgent. You call to us from our sacred stories, where God, Christ, and Spirit create, challenge, and comfort. Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope, and help us see with your eyes the ways which lead to beloved community where Christ Jesus is at the center.

ANTHEM "With a Voice of Singing"

*arr. Shaw
Center Church Choir*

THE SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Calvin David MacKenzie



*Parents: Graeme and Emily MacKenzie
God Parents: Gabriel Mills and Elise Ouellette
Grandparents: Steve and Julie Blanchard &
Mark MacKenzie and Carol Bonci*

THE INVITATION

WELCOME

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

PARENTAL & GOD PARENTS VOWS

Minister: *Do you desire to have your child Baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?*

Response: *We do.*

Minister: *Will you teach Calvin that he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?*

Response: *We will, with the help of God.*

Minister: *Do you promise - by the Grace of God - to grow with Calvin in the Christian faith, helping him to affirm his Baptism when he is ready to become an adult member of Christ's Church?*

Response: *We promise, with the help of God.*

PRAYER OF SUPPORT

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Minister: *Do you as witnesses of faith today promise your prayerful support and presence with these parents and God parents?*

Response: *We do with the help of God.*

THE BAPTISM

THE PRESENTATION

THE BENEDICTION

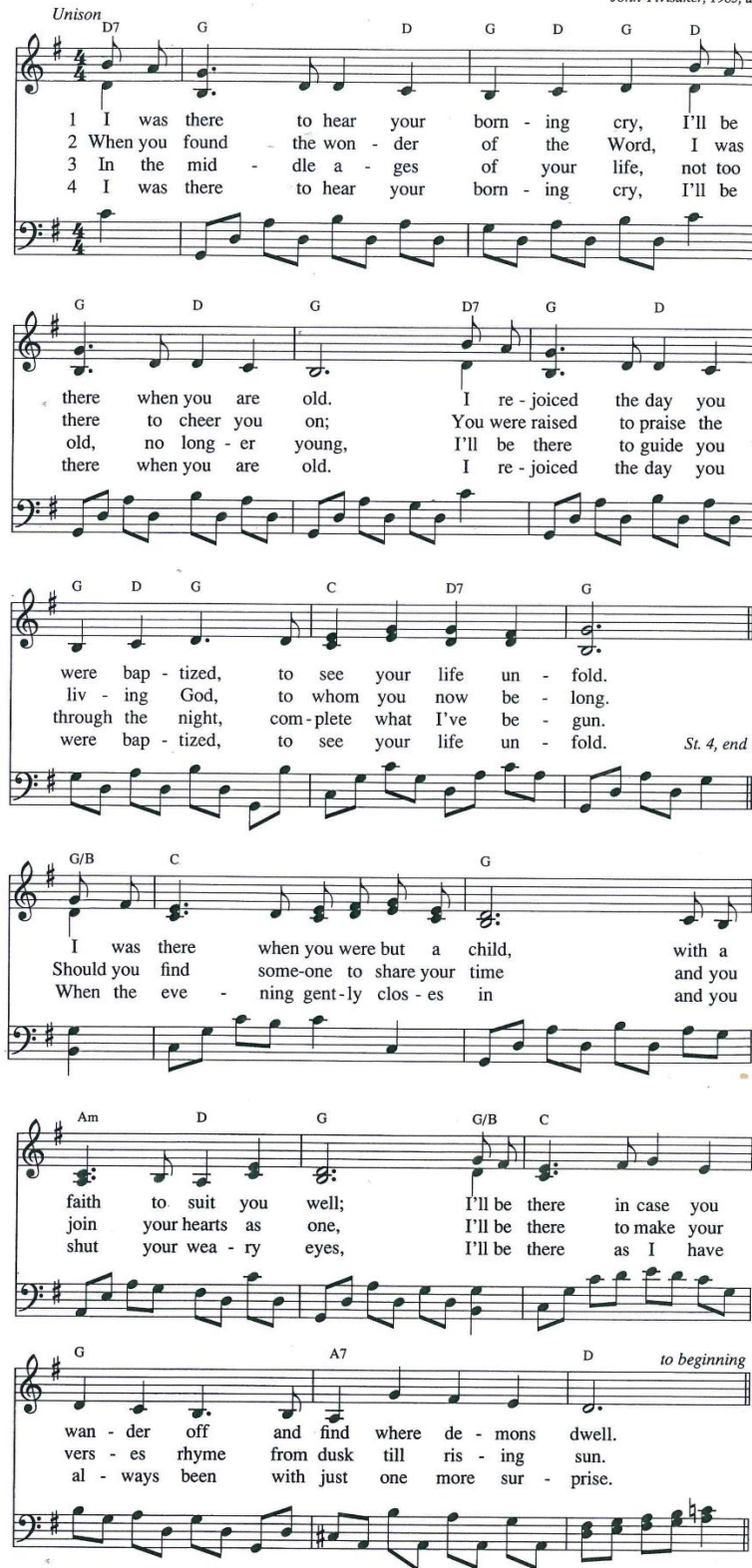
HYMN "I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry"

John Vlvisaker

I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

John Ylvisaker, 1985; alt

Unison



1 I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be
2 When you found the won-der of the Word, I was
3 In the mid-dle a-ges of your life, not too
4 I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be

there when you are old. I re-joiced the day you
there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the
old, no long-er young, I'll be there to guide you
there when you are old. I re-joiced the day you

were bap-tized, to see your life un-fold.
liv-ing God, to whom you now be-long.
through the night, com-plete what I've be-gun.
were bap-tized, to see your life un-fold. *St. 4, end*

I was there when you were but a child, with a
Should you find some-one to share your time and you
When the eve-ning gent-ly clos-es in and you

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you
join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
shut your wea-ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

wan-der off and find where de-mons dwell.
vers-es rhyme from dusk till ris-ing sun.
al-ways been with just one more sur-prise. *to beginning*

John Ylvisaker is the composer of a number of collections of music in the "contemporary" or "folk" idiom, as well as soundtracks for various media productions. This is perhaps his best-known song.

Tune: BORNING CRY 9.7.9.6.D.
John Ylvisaker, 1985

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURES: JAMES 3:1-12 (NRSV)
ROMANS 13:8 (NRSV)

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

.....

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

SERMON: “The Litmus Test of Love”

Rev. Marilyn Kendrix

HYMN: “They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

Peter Scholtes

494 They'll Know We Are Christians

Guitar capo: 1; play Em
Unison

Em

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

Am Em

we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

Am Em

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain C G C G Em Am

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love,

Em Am Bm Em

yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

WORDS and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes, 1966

ST. BRENDAN'S
76.76.86 w. refrain

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THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: *Lord in your mercy,*

All: *Hear our prayer.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

CLOSING HYMN: "O For A World"

Miriam Therese Winter

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

CHORAL BENEDICTION: "Halle, Halle Hallelujah"

Caribbean Melody

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Allegro (Sonata I)

F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Bob Gilbert, Organist

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

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!



[FACEBOOK](#)

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

Minister Emeritus: The Reverend J. Alan McLean

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

Coordinator for Justice & Faith Formation Ministries: Dr. Eric Hearst (ext TBD)

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 (ext 205)

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!

Church Information for when our buildings are 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 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 us at info@cchartford.org / 860-249-5631