



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



Order of Worship for September 26, 2021, 10:30am

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

CHIMES

PRELUDE: “All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”

arr. L. Goss

CHORAL INTROIT “Spirit of the Living God”

WELCOME to Center Church!

Rev. Edwin Perez

CALL TO WORSHIP

UCC Worship Ways

Leader: *I am the church; you are the church.*

All: *We are the church together.*

Leader: *We depend on our seniors and long-time members
to remember where we came from and where we have been.*

All: *We are the church together.*

Leader: *We depend on our children to retell our sacred stories
as they grow.*

All: *We are the church together.*

Leader: *We depend on our youth and young adults
to ask us why we do things this way
and to suggest something new.*

All: *We are the church together.*

Leader: *We need each other to be the church.*

All: *We are the church together.*

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN: “Holy Holy Holy”

NICEA

printed on the next page

Rev. 4:8-11; Isa. 6:1-8

Reginald Heber, 1826; alt.

Descant

4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Saints a - dore you tru - ly,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Though we know but dim - ly,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God the Al - might - y!

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing we praise your maj - es - ty.
 Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 Though the eyes of hum - an - kind your glo - ry may not see,
 All your works shall praise your name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim bow be - fore you on - ly,
 You a - lone are ho - ly, you a - lone are wor - thy,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 From the be - gin - ning, God e - ter - nal - ly.
 Per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

If attending in person, we encourage you to greet each other with little to no physical contact, e.g., verbally or by waving

ANTHEM "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

*Arr. Doris Akers
Center Church Choir*

SCRIPTURES: NUMBERS 11:4-6,10-16, 24-29 (NRSV)
MARK 9:38-40 (NRSV)

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at. Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery. So the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you. So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!

.....

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us.

SERMON: God in the “Other”

Rev. Edwin Perez

HYMN: “Spirit of God”

MORECAMBE

HYMNS OF THE SPIRIT

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

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George Croly, 1854; alt.

Gal. 5:25; Matt. 22:37; John 1:32

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3 Have you not bid us love you ev - ery way?
4 Teach me to feel that you are al - ways nigh;
5 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
All, all your own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind;
teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as you are,
No an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;
I see your cross— there teach my heart to stay;
To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
The bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
O let me seek you, and O let me find.
teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

CLOSING HYMN: "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

African-American Spiritual

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Every Time I Feel the Spirit

2 Sam. 22:9; Ps. 18:8

African-American spiritual

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will
pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing

Last time, end

in my heart I will pray. 1 Up - on the moun - tain my God
2 Oh, Jor - dan riv - er, chil - ly and

spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a -
cold, it chills the bod - y, not the soul. There's on - ly

to Refrain

round me; looked so fine; I asked my God if all were mine.
one train on this track; it runs to heav - en, then right back.

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The score includes a Refrain, a Last time, end section, and a section leading back to the Refrain. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some lines having multiple verses. The score is arranged in a standard musical notation with treble and bass clefs, and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Tune: African-American spiritual
Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

BENEDICTION

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!



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

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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 209)

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