



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



Order of Worship for January 23, 2022, 10:30am

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

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"I don't know how we ever got so unamazed, but the amazing thing is: Even now Jesus speaks the poetry of God." - Ann Weems, *Putting Amazing Back in Grace*

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE: *Amazing Grace*

arr. D. Bish

CHORAL INTROIT: *Sweet Hour of Prayer*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

One: This day is holy to the Lord your God.

All: Let us come ready to see, hear, and touch the Word of God.

One: Do not mourn or weep, and do not be grieved.

All: How can we be sad when we can experience God's Word and know God's love through our worship together? The joy of the Lord is our strength.

One: Let us come together to worship the God of joy, strength, and love.

INVOCATION

Pastor Donna Cassity

*OPENING HYMN: *Arise Your Light Is Come*

tune: FESTAL SONG

Hymn provided on the next page

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

THE GOSPEL: *Luke 4:14-21*

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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Arise, Your Light Is Come

Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21

Ruth Duck, 1973

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

SERMON: *Who are You?*

Pastor Donna Cassity

MUSICAL RESPONSE: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

tune: CORONATION

Music provided on the next page

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

CALL TO OFFERTORY

We share from what we have and from who we are as a sign of our desire to bring good news to the poor. May these gifts bring light to those in need and put the joy of the Lord in their hearts.

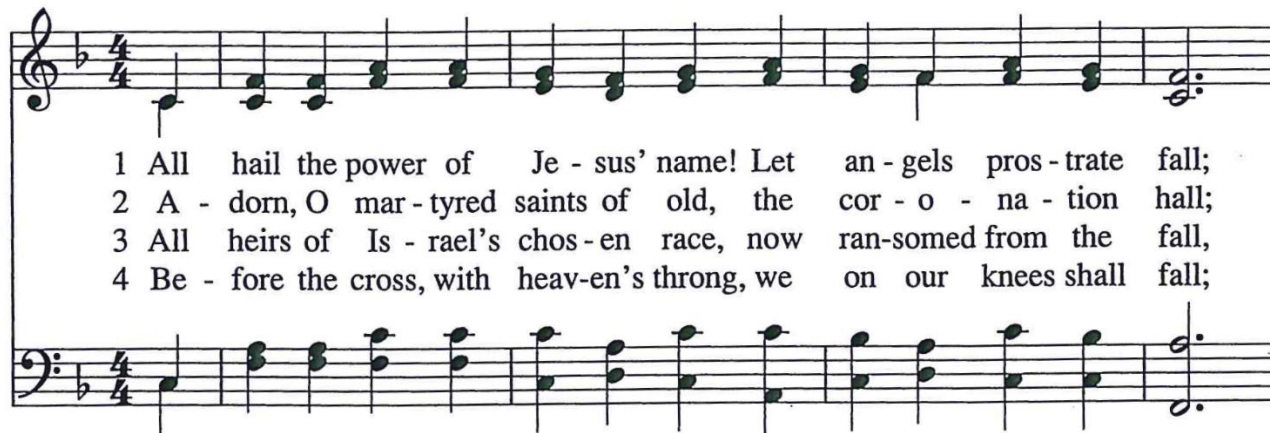
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

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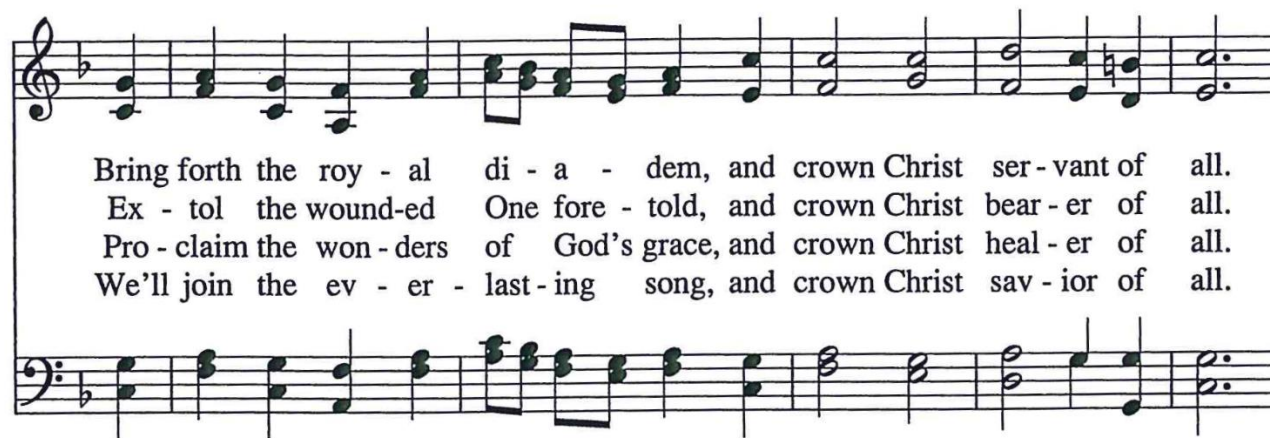
St. 1-3, Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780; alt.

Rev. 19; 5:9; Phil. 2:9-11

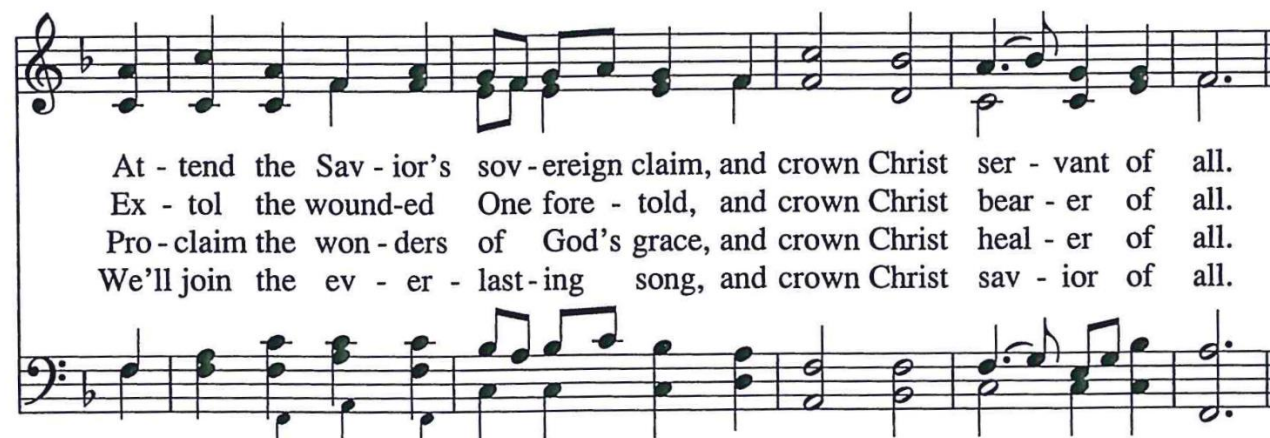
St. 4, John Rippon, 1787; alt.



1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2 A - dorn, O mar - tyred saints of old, the cor - o - na - tion hall;
3 All heirs of Is - rael's chos - en race, now ran - somed from the fall,
4 Be - fore the cross, with heav - en's throng, we on our knees shall fall;



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown Christ ser - vant of all.
Ex - tol the wound - ed One fore - told, and crown Christ bear - er of all.
Pro - claim the won - ders of God's grace, and crown Christ heal - er of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown Christ sav - ior of all.



At - tend the Sav - ior's sov - ereign claim, and crown Christ ser - vant of all.
Ex - tol the wound - ed One fore - told, and crown Christ bear - er of all.
Pro - claim the won - ders of God's grace, and crown Christ heal - er of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown Christ sav - ior of all.

MUSICAL OFFERING: *The Present*

D. Kouri & R. Reid

Caroline Christopher, soprano, Sam Noonan, alto

Davis Martin, tenor and Stewart Battle, bass

*DOXOLOGY:

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low;

Praise God a-bove, you heaven-ly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

O God of all gifts, we join with Jesus in proclaiming the year of your favor. Bless our gifts and bless us as we seek to bring joy and comfort to those who are unknown to us, and to those who are near and beloved. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)*

tune: ELDERKIN

Hymn provided on the next page

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: *We Will Follow the Light*

POSTLUDE: *Fugue in G (Jig)*

J.S. Bach

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

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

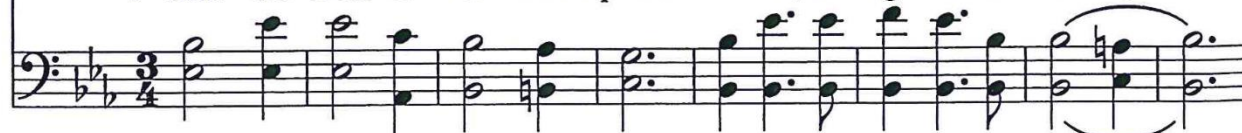
(Jesus, the Light of the World)

John 8:12; 9:5

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.



1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 2 Joy - ful, all you saints a - rise, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 4 Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je-sus, the light of the world;



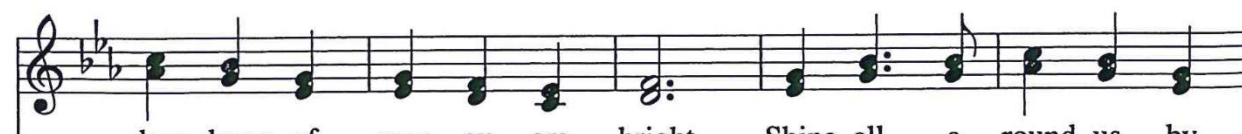
Glo - ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Join the tri - umph of the skies, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Word, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ - teous-ness! Je-sus, the light of the world.



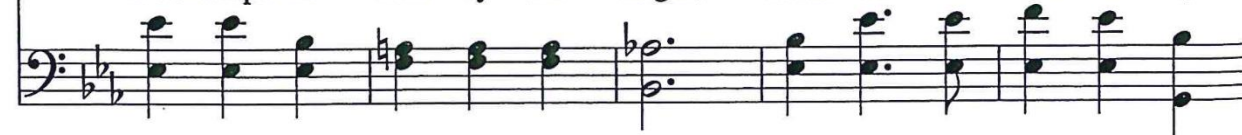
Refrain



We will fol - low the light, beau - ti - ful light, come where the



dew-drops of mer - cy are bright, Shine all a - round us by



day and by night, Je - sus, the light of the world.



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

P 860.249.5631 F 860.246.3915 www.centerchurchhartford.org

Bridge Senior Pastor: The Reverend Donna Cassity (ext. 202)

***If you'd like to meet with Pastor Donna,
please schedule a time by calling Emily
in the office at 860-249-5631 ext. 200***

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

ON STREET PARKING is available during Sunday Worship Services on Gold Street and on the west side of Lewis Street, and is FREE on Sundays. The church is maintaining our relationship with the Traveler's Garage which is temporarily closed due to Covid-19. Stay tuned as we partner with other garages in the area.

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.

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