

An Open and Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Christ



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

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

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"In the midst of our bickering and battling there is the persistent voice of the Holy One, who calls even now: "return to me." It's time to remember who we are and to whom we belong."

- Ann Weems, Putting Amazing Back in Grace

*Please rise in body or spirit.

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE: Canon in D

J. Pachelbel

CHORAL INTROIT: Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: O God of Change and Stillness, of Wounds and Repair,

All: in you we find our sense of balance, a place to land and to breathe.

One: May we grow our attention towards that which gives life,

All: and cultivate connections of community and care.

One: May grace touch all that changes us,

All: and all that we hold unfold with peace,

One: May we gather in this space claiming healing as our birthright,

All: and bring with us the medicines of service and compassion.

One: On this Health and Human Service Sunday, let us come together

to transform ourselves to transform the world,

All: and move like living water, ever adapting, ever faithful,

ever full of all that can be. Amen.

INVOCATION

Pastor Donna Cassity

*OPENING HYMN: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Ein Feste Burg Hymn provided on the next page

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

Ps. 46

Martin Luther, c. 1529

Transl. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981



- 1 A might y for tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er fail - ing,
- 2 Did we in our own strength con-fide, our striv-ing would be los ing,
- 3 And though this world with dev ils filled should threat-en to un - do us,
- 4 That word be-yond all earth - ly powers for - ev - er a - bid - ing; is

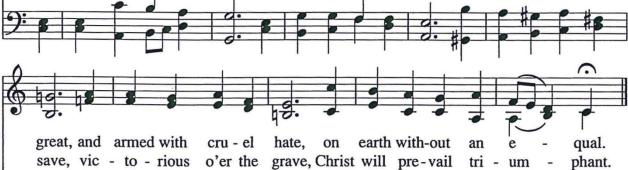


Our pres-ent help a mid the flood of mor-tal ills pre - vail ing. But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choos ing. We will not fear for God has willed the truth to tri - umph through us. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us sid ing.



For still our an-cient You ask who that may The powers of e - vil Let goods and kin-dred

foe does seek to work us woe with craft and pow - er be? Christ Je - sus sets us free! With might-y power to grim, we trem-ble not for them; their rage we can en go, this mor-tal life al - so; the bod - y they may



dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell them. kill; God's truth shall tri-umph still; God's reign en-dures for - ev er.



THE GOSPEL: Luke 4:21-30 Barbara Sanders

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

SERMON: Part 2... Pastor Donna Cassity

MUSICAL RESPONSE: I Need You Every Hour tune: NEED

Music provided on the next page

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

CALL TO OFFERTORY

Barbara Sanders

In 1858, one of our UCC forebears, Pastor Louis Edward Nollau, appealed to his congregation, now known as St. Peter's United Church of Christ in St. Louis, for money to build a home to support young children orphaned by a great cholera epidemic. Later, one member chastised Nollau, insisting the church did not have enough funds for such an ambitious project. To this, the pastor replied.

"No, ...But we have the children."

Today, Pastor Nollau's vision, Evangelical Children's Home, is more than 150 years old and has always evolved and adapted to meet the changing needs of children. Now referred to as "Every Child's Hope,"

Today, as you present your offering, I invite you to do so believing that great things are possible for those who see great human need as a call to advance the love and compassion of the church of Jesus Christ.

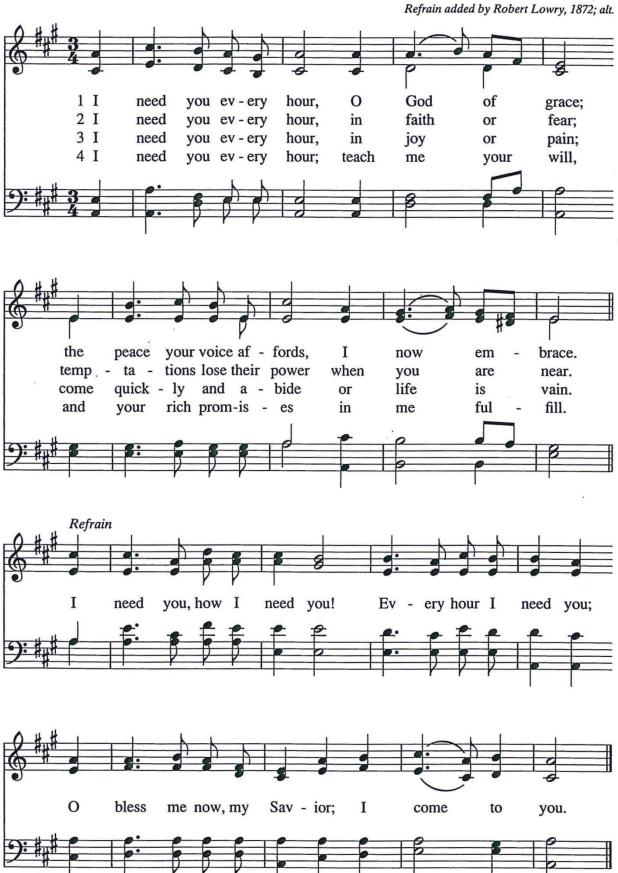
Let us be that kind of church, as our forbearers have taught us.

MUSICAL OFFERING: We Will Walk In The Light

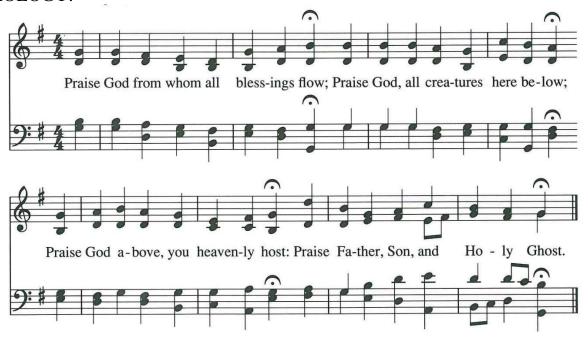
N. Price and D. Besig Center Church Quartet

I Need You Every Hour

Annie S. Hawks, 1872; alt. Refrain added by Robert Lowry. 1872: alt.



*DOXOLOGY:



*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: Blessed Assurance

tune: ASSURANCE Hymn provided on the next page

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: Praising My Savior All the Day Long

POSTLUDE: Trumpet Tune H. Purcell

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!



f 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

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 Hymns and Service Music reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-708141

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 andphysical, 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 textthe 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 southeastcorner 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, childrenwill 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 AdultEducation 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