



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



**Order of Worship for  
October 3, 2021, 10:30am**

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

## CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** “We Thank Thee”

*D. Buxtehude*

**CHORAL INTROIT** “God of the Ages, God Near at Hand”

**WELCOME to Center Church!**

*Rev. Craig Cowing*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: *O LORD, our LORD, your majestic name...” is so worthy of our thankful praise!*

**All: *In awed praise, we each sing and praise our God for life’s many blessings!***

Leader: *“O LORD, our LORD...what are mere mortals that you should think about them...”*

**All: *In utter amazement and wonder, we come to celebrate God’s creative love!***

Leader: *“O LORD, our LORD, your majestic name fills the earth. Your glory is higher than the heavens...! We are blessed to be able to offer God our worship and praise!*

**All: *In speechless and awed worship, we marvel at God’s holy presence with us, as we contemplate all that God has given to us! We are all so very blessed! Amen.***

## INVOCATION

**OPENING HYMN:** “For the Beauty of the Earth”

*DIX*

*printed on the next page*

## For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, *Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.*  
 St. 4, *Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,

For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,  
 For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

*Refrain*

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain  
*Conrad Kocher, 1838*  
*Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE

SOLO " My Lord, What A Morning"

*African American Spiritual*  
*Davis Martin, Tenor*

**SCRIPTURE: PSALM 8 (NRSV)**

O LORD, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory above the heavens.  
Out of the mouths of babes and infants  
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,  
to silence the enemy and the avenger.  
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;  
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?  
Yet you have made them a little lower than God,  
and crowned them with glory and honor.  
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet,  
all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,  
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.  
O LORD, our Sovereign,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**SERMON:** “A Little Lower than the Angels;  
or, How We Get in Trouble”

*Rev. Craig Cowing*

**ANTHEM: “Look at the World”**

*John Rutter  
Center Church Choir*

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION LITURGY**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Our God, we thank you for this meal that has refreshed us and prepared us for ministry in the world. Give us the sustenance we need for the challenges of each day. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

# THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## PASTORAL PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

#### CLOSING HYMN: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

ROYAL OAK

#### All Things Bright and Beautiful

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Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

*Unison  
Refrain*

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

The first system of musical notation for the hymn, featuring a treble and bass staff in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes.

*Last time, end*

All things wise and won - der - ful, our dear God made them all.

The second system of musical notation, continuing the melody and lyrics. It ends with a double bar line and the instruction 'Last time, end'.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,  
2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,  
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum - mer sun,

The third system of musical notation, providing three different verses for the hymn. The melody continues across the lines.

*to Refrain*

God made their glow-ing col - ors, and made their ti - ny wings.  
The sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.  
The ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.

The fourth system of musical notation, which serves as a refrain for the hymn. It includes the instruction 'to Refrain' and concludes the piece.

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain  
English melody  
Adapt. Martin Shaw, 1915

## **BENEDICTION**

## **CHORAL BENEDICTION**

## **ORGAN POSTLUDE “The Heavens Declare the Glory of God”**

*B. Marcello*  
*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!



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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)**

**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](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 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 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