



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



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

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

**PRELUDE/GATHERING MUSIC: “Babylon”**

*D. McLean  
Dan Theriault,  
prerecorded Guitar and Vocals*

**WELCOME to Center Church!**

*Rev. Joseph Bradley*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader: God is our Creator, the one who forms us and fashions our lives.*

**People: *Let us sing the greatness of God***

*Leader: God is our Redeemer, the one who forgives us and sets us free.*

**People: *Let us sing the greatness of God***

*Leader: God is our Sustainer, the one who encourages us and equips us to bless the world.*

**People: *Let us sing the greatness of God***

**All: *Come, let us worship together!***

## **INVOCATION**

God, caring and compassionate, ever present within us and around us. During this time of worship make us woke and aware of your loving, forgiving nature which is the precursor for our own capacity to love and be loved, to forgive and be forgiven, both ourselves and our neighbors for ever and ever. Amen

## **OPENING SONG: “Lord I Lift Your Name On High”**

Lord I lift Your name on high

Lord I love to sing Your praises  
I'm so glad You're in my life  
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show the way  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky  
Lord I lift Your name on high

## **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

### **SCRIPTURE: MARK 10:17-31 (NRSV)**

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age - houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions - and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.

**SERMON:** “Reflection: The Possible Impossible”

*Rev. Joseph Bradley*

**SONG:** “Give Thanks”

*D. Moen*

Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us"

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)**

#### **CLOSING SONG: "Shine Jesus Shine"**

*G. Kendrick*

##### **Verse 1:**

Lord, the light of your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me

##### **Chorus:**

Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light

##### **Verse 2:**

Lord, I come to your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance  
By the blood I may enter your brightness  
Search me, try me, consume all my  
darkness  
Shine on me, shine on me (to Chorus)

##### **Verse 3:**

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your  
story  
Shine on me, shine on me (to Chorus)

### **BENEDICTION**

#### **SUNG POSTLUDE "Shine, Jesus Shine"**

*G. Kendrick*

Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light

***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**

**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