



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



**Order of Worship for  
October 17, 2021, 10:30am**

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

## CHIMES

**PRELUDE:** “We Are Marching In The Light of God (Siyahamba)” *South African  
Center Church Choir*

**WELCOME to Center Church!** *Dr. Eric Hearst*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: *Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

**People:** *O God, how fantastic you are!*

*You are clothed in glory and grandeur!*

Leader: *You wear light like a robe;*

*You open the skies like a curtain.*

**People:** *You make the clouds your chariot  
and ride on the wings of the wind.*

Leader: *You set the earth on its foundations,  
so that it shall never be shaken.*

**People:** *Lord, you have done so many things!  
You have made the earth overflow in wonder.*

**All:** *We praise you, with every bit of ourselves!  
Praise the Lord!*

## INVOCATION

**OPENING HYMN:** “I Love to Tell the Story”

*HANKEY  
Printed on the next page*

## 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:** “Child of God”

*M. Miller  
Center Church Choir*

## I Love to Tell the Story

Katherine Hankey, 1866; alt.

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.  
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems  
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat  
 4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

Of Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love.  
 than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams.  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.  
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
 And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
 be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.  
 will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry

I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Holy God, through Jesus, you taught us that the last shall be first and the first shall be last, but we often struggle with creating space so that others might thrive. We are haphazard with your creation, choosing convenience over conservation, and recklessly assume there will always be enough to go around. We idealize the poor as “happy with their small portion” and put off acts of justice that restore opportunities for the vulnerable. We are often content for those on the margins to be “first” in the afterlife but not in this life. And sometimes we fall prey to the world’s priorities, which whisper that we must come in first and have the most and that we are always in jeopardy of not being enough. Help us, O God, to lean into the example of our servant savior, who models power in vulnerability and invites us to serve one another.*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE:** LEVITICUS 26:3-9 (NRSV)

MARK 12:28-31 (NRSV)

If you follow my statutes and keep my commandments and observe them faithfully, I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Your threshing shall overtake the vintage, and the vintage shall overtake the sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and live securely in your land. And I will grant peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and no one shall make you afraid; I will remove dangerous animals from the land, and no sword shall go through your land. You shall give chase to your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. Five of you shall give chase to a hundred, and a hundred of you shall give chase to ten thousand; your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. I will look with favor upon you and make you fruitful and multiply you; and I will maintain my covenant with you.

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One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

**SERMON:** “A Godly Command - Love Your Neighbor As Yourself” *Dr. Eric Hearst*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**HYMN:** “Renew Your Church”

*ALL IS WELL  
printed on the next page*

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER (DEBTS)**

**CLOSING HYMN:** “This Little Light”

*ALL IS WELL  
printed on the final page*

**BENEDICTION**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:** Reprise – “This Little Light”

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***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)

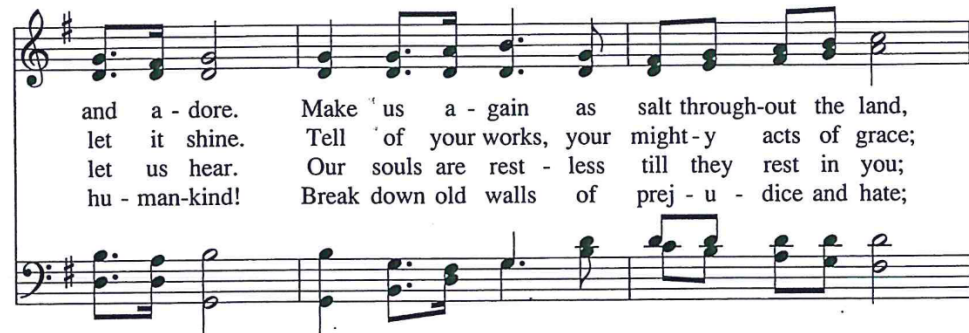
Nursery Care: Tina Franklin

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*Matt. 5:13-16; Luke 11:1-4; Mark 12:28-34**Kenneth L. Cober, 1960; alt.*


1 Re - new your church, its min - is - tries re - store: both to serve  
 2 Teach us your word, re - veal its truth di - vine; on our path  
 3 Teach us to pray, for you are ev - er near; your still voice  
 4 Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind, each and all—



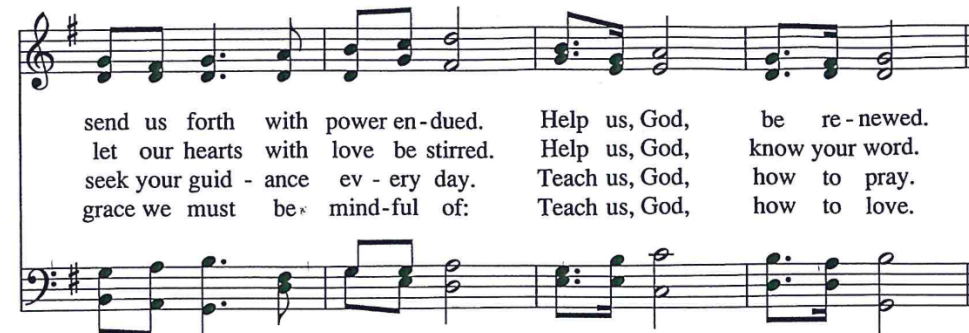
and a - dore. Make us a - gain as salt through-out the land,  
 let it shine. Tell of your works, your might-y acts of grace;  
 let us hear. Our souls are rest - less till they rest in you;  
 hu - man-kind! Break down old walls of prej - u - dice and hate;



and as light from a stand. 'Mid som-ber shad - ows  
 from each page show your face. As you have sent your  
 this is life, full and true. Be - fore your pres - ence  
 leave us not to our fate. As you have loved and



of the night, where greed and ha - tred spread their blight, O  
 Christ to save, in love to tri - umph o'er the grave, O  
 keep us still that we may find for us your will And  
 given your life to end hos - til - i - ty and strife, Your



send us forth with power en-dued. Help us, God, be re - newed.  
 let our hearts with love be stirred. Help us, God, know your word.  
 seek your guid - ance ev - ery day. Teach us, God, how to pray.  
 grace we must be mind-ful of: Teach us, God, how to love.

## **This Little Light**

### **Verse 1**

This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine;  
this little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

### **Verse 2**

Everywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine;  
everywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
Everywhere I go,  
I'm gonna let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

### **Verse 3**

All through the night,  
I'm gonna let it shine;  
all through the night,  
I'm gonna let it shine.  
All through the night,  
I'm gonna let it shine;  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

**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