



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



Order of Worship for October 24, 2021, 10:30am

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

PRELUDE: “Shout to the North”

Martin North

VERSE 1 –

Men of faith rise up and sing
Of the great and glorious King
You are strong when you feel weak
In your brokenness complete

CHORUS

Shout to the north and the south
Sing to the east and the west
Jesus is saviour to all
Lord of heaven and earth

VERSE 2 –

Rise up women of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing power Of our
awesome King of love to CHORUS

VERSE 3 –

We've been through fire, we've been
through rain
We've been refined by the power of His
name
We've fallen deeper in love with You
You've burned the truth on our lips
to CHORUS

VERSE 4 –

Rise up church with broken wings
Fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high
By His grace again we'll fly to CHORUS

WELCOME to Center Church!

Rev. Craig Cowing

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeremiah 31:7-9

One: Sing aloud with gladness

Many: God is gathering the people!

One: From the farthest parts of the earth we come

Many: All who struggle; all who labor with new life!

One: Those who are weeping, God will console

Many: Those who get lost find a clear path home.

One: Let us worship the God who gathers us.

INVOCATION

Our God, we give thanks that you have gathered us into your church and graced us with your faithful presence. We ponder our history, ancient and still developing, and marvel at the many expressions of your church. Grant us the vision to be a part of this new moment in your Church that will bring ever more joy and justice to the world. Continue to gather us, the diverse lot of us, into Jesus' vision and dream that your faithful people may be one in you. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: “How Can I Keep From Singing”

tune: ENDLESS SONG

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
 liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All

finds an ech - o in my soul— how can I keep from sing - ing?
 Love com - mands both heaven and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?
 friends by shame are un - de - filed, how can I keep from sing - ing?
 things are mine since I am Christ's— how can I keep from sing - ing?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

If attending in person, we encourage you to greet each other with limited physical contact, e.g., verbally or by waving

SCRIPTURE: MARK 10:46-52 (NRSV)

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

SERMON: "Responding to the Call"

Rev. Craig Cowing

SONG: "Firm Foundation"

John Chisum

CHORUS

Jesus, You're My Firm
Foundation,
I Know I Can Stand
Secure;
Jesus, You're My Firm
Foundation,
I Put My Hope In Your
Holy Word,
I Put My Hope In Your
Holy Word.

VERSE 1 –

I Have A Living Hope,
(I Have A Living Hope,)
I Have A Future;
(I Have A Future;)
God Has A Plan For Me,
(God Has A Plan For
Me,)
Of This I'm Sure,
(Of This I'm Sure.)
to CHORUS

VERSE 2 –

Your Word Is Faithful,
(Your Word Is Faithful,)
Mighty With Power;
(Mighty With Power;)
God Will Deliver Me,
(God Will Deliver Me,)
Of This I'm Sure,
(Of This I'm Sure.)
to CHORUS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

CLOSING HYMN: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

tune: DIX

28

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.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of three systems. The first system contains the first four stanzas of the hymn. The second system contains the fifth and sixth stanzas. The third system contains the refrain. The piano accompaniment is written in the bass clef and provides harmonic support for the vocal parts.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain

Conrad Kocher, 1838

Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Days of Elijah”

Robin Mark

These are the days of Elijah

Declaring the word of the Lord
And these are the days of Your servant
Moses
Righteousness being restored

And though these are days of great trial
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still, we are the voice in the desert
crying
'Prepare ye the way of the Lord!'

Behold He comes riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun at the trumpet-call
Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes,
oh come

And these are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days of Your servant
David
Rebuilding a temple of praise

And these are the days of the harvest
Oh, the fields are as white in Your
world
And we are the labourers in Your
vineyard
Declaring the word of the Lord!

Behold He comes riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call
Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes

There's no God like Jehovah!

Our thanks to everyone who created today's service.

***A special thank you to Dan Theriault and David Reynolds
for their music leadership this morning while Bob Gilbert is away.***

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!



[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

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

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 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.

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 / 860-249-5631