



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



Order of Worship for October 31, 2021, 10:30am

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

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE: “Adagio”

A. Vivaldi

CHORAL INTROIT

OPENING HYMN: “Sing Praise to God”

*tune: LOBE DEN HERREN
printed on the next page*

WELCOME to Center Church!

Rev. Edwin Perez

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Hear, O people of God: our God is one.

Hear the commandments of our God.

All: First, love your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength

Leader: Hear, O people of God: our God is one. Recite the commandments to your children and hold them in your hearts.

All: Second, love your neighbor as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these calls to love. Amen.

INVOCATION

O Holy One, Source of all life and Ground of all love,
we thank you for your love that never lets us go.

Thank you for the privilege of gathering in this space
with these your people – our neighbors – to worship you.

We do not come merely to open the doors of the church,
but we come that our hearts might be opened to you and to one another.

As we worship you today, help us to respond to the call of love
– to love you, our neighbors, and ourselves.

May we be transformed from individuals to members of your one body.

We pray for our nation that we be united as a people tied to a single garment of
destiny. We pray for those elected officials who serve all citizens
that they may be guided not by ego, politics or money,
but by compassion for all people. Guide us as families, as a community of faith,
as a nation to follow the path of love. Amen.

GROWING AS A SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT FAITH COMMUNITY

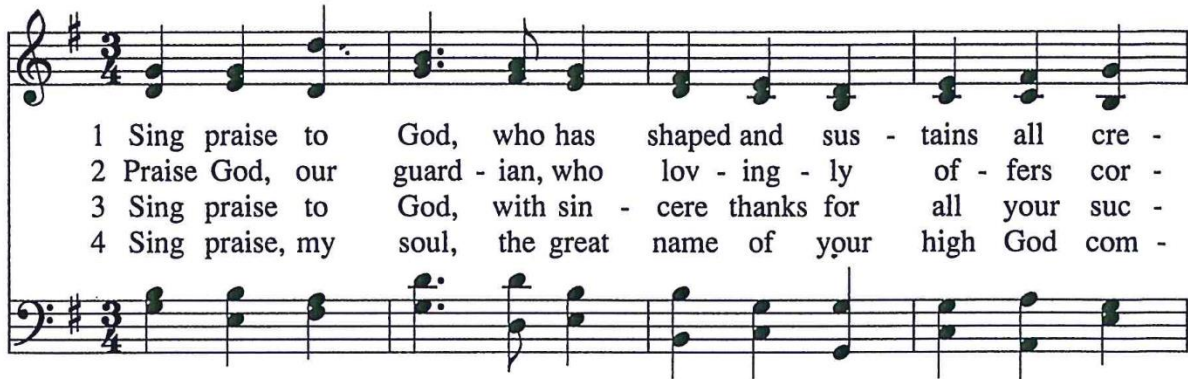
“I feel a need to be filled up with God’s love, so I can love others.”

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

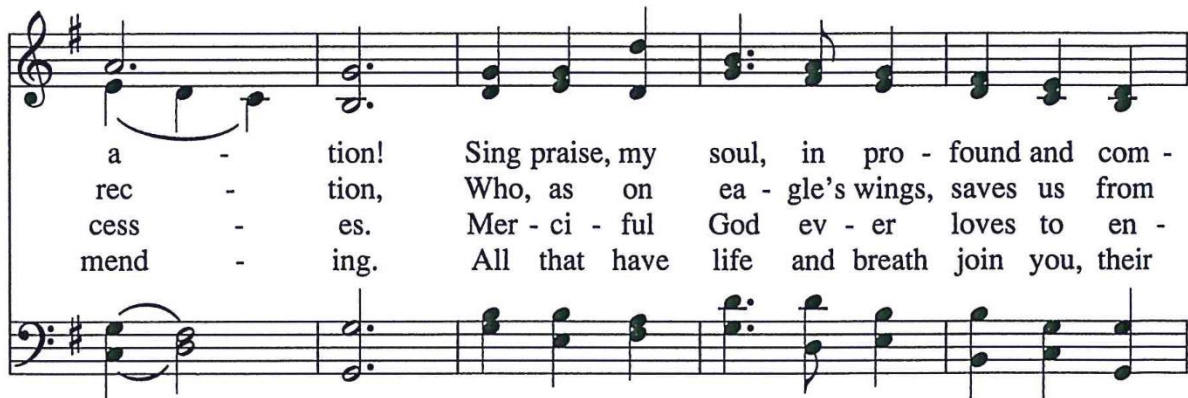
Ps. 68:4, 32; Ps. 105

Joachim Neander, 1680

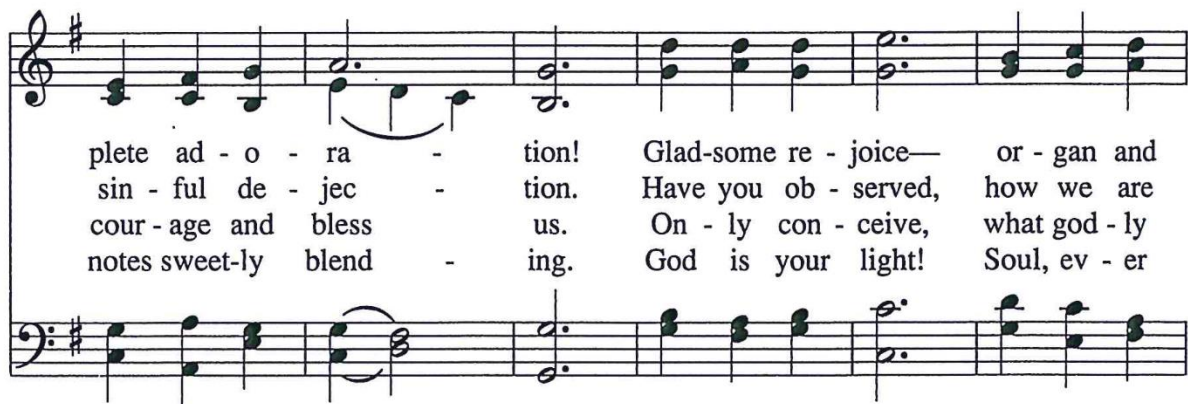
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993



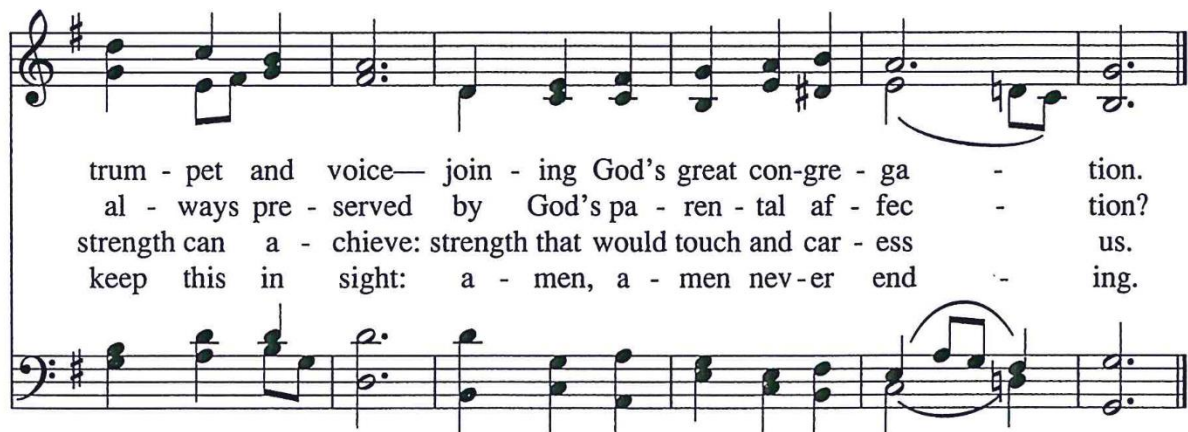
1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -
 2 Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -
 3 Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -
 4 Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -



a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -
 rec - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from
 cess - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -
 mend - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their



plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad - some re - jice — or - gan and
 sin - ful de - jec - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are
 cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly
 notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er



trum - pet and voice — join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - tion.
 al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - tion?
 strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.
 keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - 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

SOLO: "A Simple Song"

*L. Bernstein
Caroline Christopher, Soprano
Warburton Music Intern*

SCRIPTURES: DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9 (NRSV)
HEBREWS 9:11-14 (NRSV)

Now this is the commandment - the statutes and the ordinances - that the LORD your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children's children may fear the LORD your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

SERMON: "Messing Up is Scary"

Rev. Edwin Perez

ANTHEM: "You Are Mine"

*D. Haas and M. Hayes
Center Church Choir*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

CLOSING HYMN: "Amazing Grace"

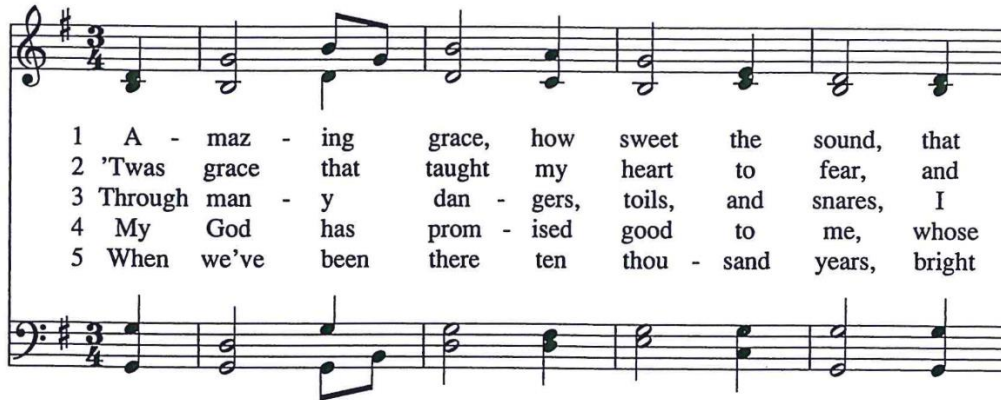
tune: AMAZING GRACE

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

547

St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

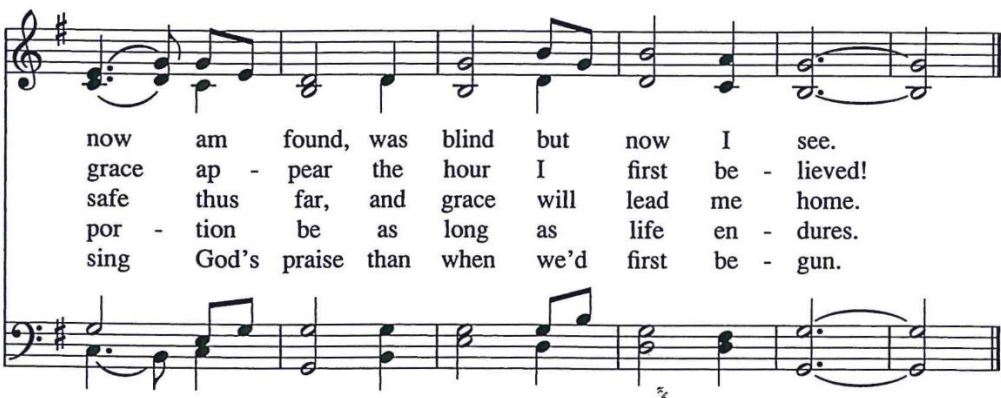
St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE: “Toccata in D Minor”

J.S. Bach

***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!



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

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 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