



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



## Order of Worship for November 21, 2021, 10:30am

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

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*We turn to God for help when our foundations are shaking,  
only to learn that it is God shaking them. – Charles West*

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

**PRELUDE:** “We Thank Thee”

*D. Buxtehude*

**WELCOME to Center Church!**

*Pastor Donna Cassity*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

*based on Psalm 132*

Leader: Lord, remember in David’s favor all the hardships he endured;  
how he swore to the Lord and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,  
“I will not enter my house or get into my bed;  
I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids until I find a place for the  
Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.”

**All: Choral Response:**

*Response* *Antiphon: David Hurd, 1994*

Let us go to God's dwell - ing place.

Leader: Rise up, O God, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might.  
Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your faithful shout for joy!

**All: Choral Response**

Leader: For God has chosen Zion; God has desired it for a habitation: “This is my  
resting place forever; here I will reside, for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless  
its provisions; I will satisfy its poor with bread. Its priests I will clothe with  
salvation, and its faithful will shout for joy!

**All: Choral Response**

**INVOCATION**

## **GROWING AS A SPIRITUALLY VIBRANT FAITH COMMUNITY**

We grew as a spiritually vibrant community when Center City Churches came into being. It seemed like people were pouring their hearts and energy into it. Also, we fed off of the energy of people in the other congregations.

**\*OPENING HYMN:** “Come Ye Thankful People Come”

*tune: ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR  
printed on the next page*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

If attending in person, we encourage you to greet each other verbally or by a friendly wave of peace.

## **INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE**

**THE GOSPEL:** JOHN 18:33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

**SERMON:** “The Truth Is...”

*Pastor Donna Cassity*

**ANTHEM:** “Thanksgiving Joy”

*J. Martin  
Center Church Choir*

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER (DEBTS)**

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

*Jim Oliver*

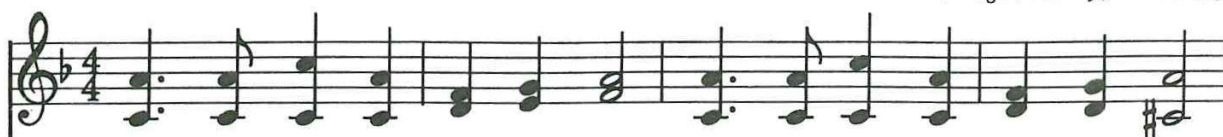
**CALL TO OFFERTORY**

Leader: Christ our sovereign and servant sets forth a just and compassionate domain in which the needs of the vulnerable and the powerful hang in balance. Let us share what we have as we work toward Christ’s reign here on earth.


## Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

*Henry Alford, 1810-1871*


ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.D.

*George J. Elvey, 1816-1893*



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home;  
 2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un-to his praise to yield;  
 3 For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take his har-vest home;  
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick-ly come To thy fi - nal har-vest home;



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;  
 Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown;  
 From his field shall in that day All of - fens - es purge a - way,  
 Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin;



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied;  
 First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear;  
 Give his an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,  
 There for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In thy pres - ence to a - bide;



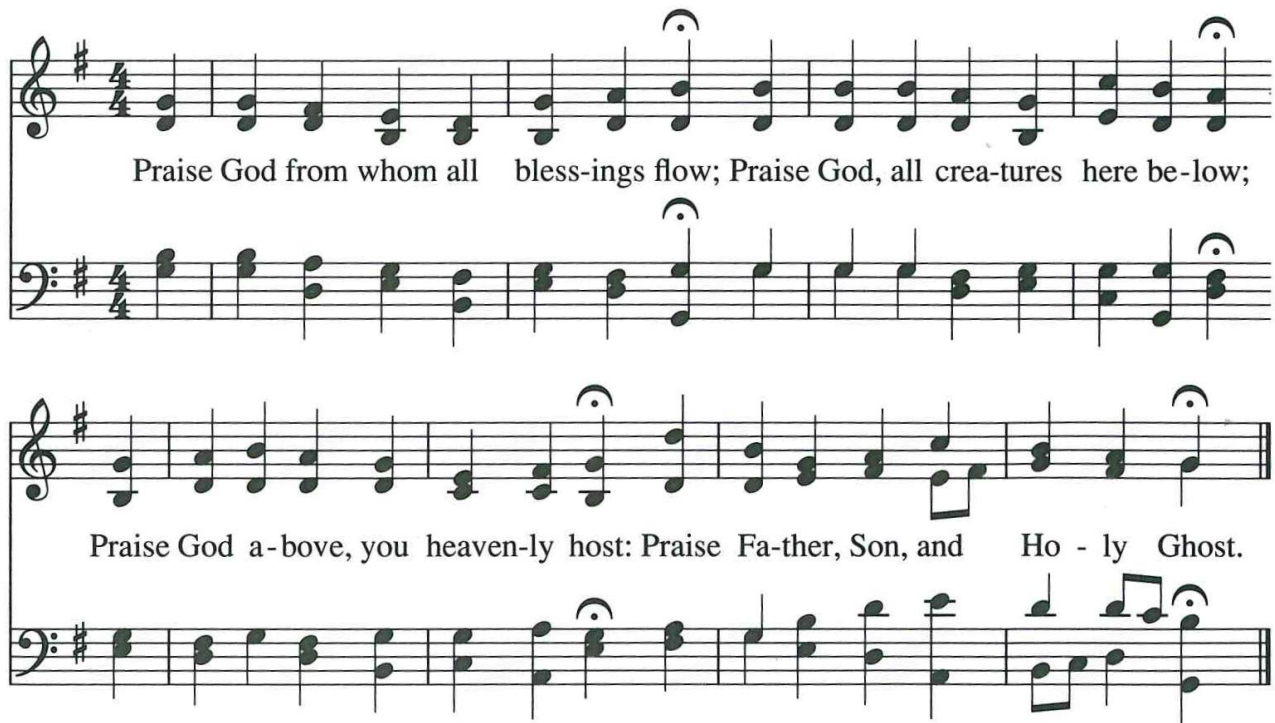
Come to God's own tem - ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home.  
 Lord of har-vest, grant that we Whole-some grain and pure may be.  
 But the fruit-ful ears to store In his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har-vest home. A-men.



**MUSICAL OFFERING: “Thanks Be to Thee”**

*G.F. Handel*  
*Sam Norman, Mezzo Soprano*  
*Warburton Music Intern*

**\*DOXOLOGY:**



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here be-low;

Praise God a-bove, you heaven-ly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION – *in unison***

Righteous ruler, accept all that we have offered to you.  
May these gifts we gather participate in your realm of truth. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN: “We Gather Together”**

*tune: KREMSER*  
*printed on the next page*

**BENEDICTION – *responsive***

Leader: What endures is not the edifices we build,  
but the work of God that we accomplish  
through our ministries in the name of Christ Jesus.

**All: Let us go forth from here empowered by the Holy Spirit  
to be God’s instruments of justice rooted in love  
to further the work of Jesus and to move us closer to God’s reign of peace.  
Amen.**

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE: “Now Thank We All Our God”**

*S. Karg-Elert*

## We Gather Together

*Netherlands Folk Song**Tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934*

KREMSER 12.11.12.11.

*Netherlands Folk Song, 1626**Arr. by Edward Kremser, 1838-1914*

1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing, He chas - tens and  
 2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing, Or - dain - ing, main -  
 3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant, And pray that thou

has - tens his will to make known; The wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis -  
 tain - ing his king - dom di - vine, So from the be - gin - ning the fight we were  
 still our de - fend - er wilt be. Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u -

ress - ing. Sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.  
 win - ning; Thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glo - ry be thine.  
 la - tion. Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free! A - men.

***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!



[FACEBOOK](#)

---

### CALL TO THE 2021 BUDGET MEETING

A Congregational Meeting of The First Church of Christ in Hartford/Center Church will be held on Sunday, November 28, 2021 immediately following the worship service. The meeting will take place in the Meeting House sanctuary and simultaneously via Zoom.

The purpose of the meeting is:

- \* To vote on approval of the 2022 church budget;
- \* To vote on a motion to remove fossil fuel stocks from the church's investment portfolio; and
- \* To transact any other business to come before the meeting.

Larry Roeming, Clerk

### **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)

Bridge Senior Pastor: The Reverend Donna Cassity (ext. 202)

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](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