



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



Order of Worship for November 28, 2021, 10:30am

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

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Always remember: if you're going through hell, keep going. – Winston Churchill

*Please rise in body or spirit.

PRELUDE: *Carols for Two Flutes*

Catherine Thompson McLean
and Mary Sand, Flute Soloists

WELCOME to Center Church!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Andrea Hernandez, Hunter and
Addison Hernandez-Maturo

Soloist: O come and be the hope in all our lives
Though chaos and confusion still survive
We know the path of hate all too well
We need our God with us, Emmanuel!
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well.

Reader 1: *Luke 21:25–28*

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Reader 2:

When the world seems scary
When we try to escape and hide
The Holy invites us to confront fear
That we may find Hope.
(Light candle of Hope)
Where in the world do we find Hope these days?

INVOCATION

Pastor Donna Cassity

*OPENING HYMN: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

tune: VENI EMMANUEL
please sing verses 1, 2, 4, 7

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Isa. 11:1-12; Exod. 19-20:17

Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710
 Based on ancient antiphons from Advent Vespers
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851, and others; alt.
 St. 2, 7, transl. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; alt.

Unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and
 3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who
 4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your
 5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
 or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of
 came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a
 own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your
 o - pen wide your heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to

ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.
 sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.

Refrain

Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

- 6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer our spir-its by your ad-vent here;
 Love stir with-in the womb of night,
 and death's own shad-ows put to flight.
 (Refrain)
- 7 O come, De-sire of Na-tions, bind all peo-ples in one heart and mind;
 Make en-vy, strife, and quar-rels cease;
 fill the whole world with heav-en's peace.
 (Refrain)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN

Jesus Loves Me

Children will continue to Sunday School

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

SERMON: *The Thrill of Hope*

Steven Lewis

MUSICAL RESPONSE: *Emmanuel*

B. McGee

Caroline Christopher, Soprano
Warburton Music Intern

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

John Border

CALL TO OFFERTORY

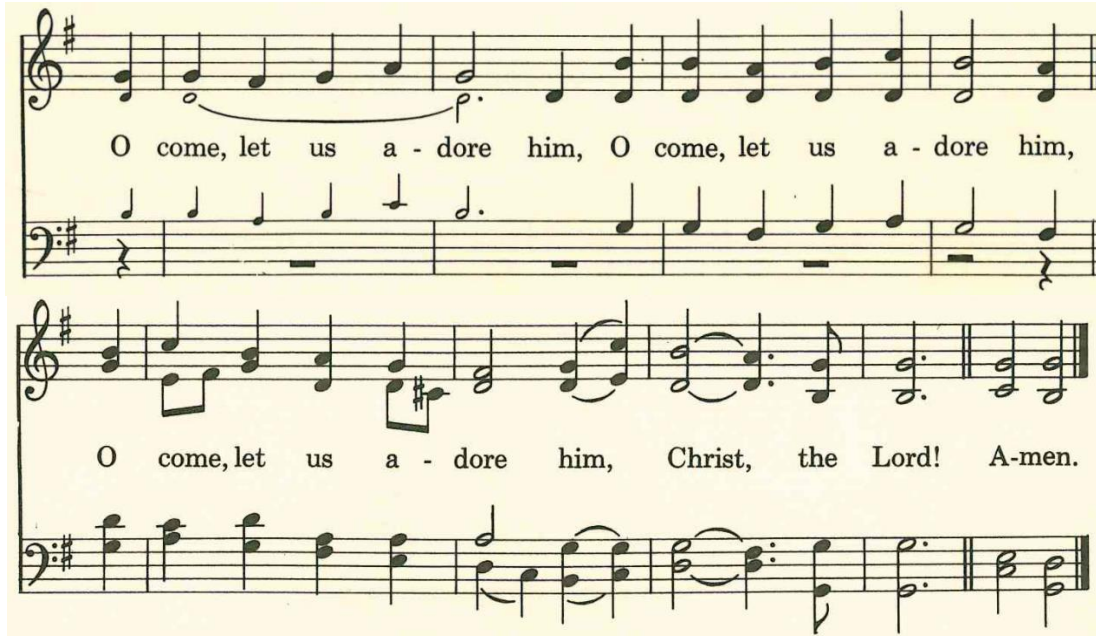
MUSICAL OFFERING: *Benedictus*

(from Christmas Oratorio)

C. Saint-Saens

Catherine Thompson McLean
and Mary Sand, Flute Duet

*DOXOLOGY:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord! A-men.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION – in unison

**The day of redemption draws near. For all who labor but do not eat,
For all who are hated for loving.**

**For all who live with a sense of foreboding, wondering what injury will be
inflicted on their bodies, we offer these gifts as a taste of God's peace and
justice in the world to come. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: *Lift Up Your Heads*

tune: TRURO
printed on the next page

BENEDICTION – responsive

One: Emmanuel! God with us! Incarnate one! Embodied one!

**All: Send us forth with confidence to seek you where you dwell in the signs-
in-the-moon-and-sun-and-stars, in the turbulence of our lives, and in
unexpected Hope. Amen.**

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Noel*

C. Daquin

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

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Georg Weissel, 1641

Ps. 24:7-10

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1865; alt.



- 1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo - rious Rul - er waits!
- 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, set a - part
- 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a - bide!
- 4 So come, my Sov-ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin;



The Sov-ereign One is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
From earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
Let me your in - ner pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.
Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.



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!



CALL TO THE 2021 BUDGET MEETING

A Congregational Meeting of The First Church of Christ in Hartford/Center Church will be held today 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

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

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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