



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



**Order of Worship for
January 14, 2024, 10:30am**

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

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PRELUDE: Amazing Grace.

arr. D. Reynolds

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God, you created the world whole.

All: But we have broken it: fractures and divisions abound.

Still, your grace remains.

Even now you are healing what is wounded.

We come to give you thanks.

**We come to give you our hearts and our hands,
that we may join you in the mending of the world.**

We worship in gratitude, in confidence, in joy!

*OPENING HYMN: NCH 593 *Lift Every Voice*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

We encourage you to greet each other verbally or by a friendly wave of peace

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Congregation:

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere,

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Invitation to
Cynthia Taplin
Diane Dwelly
Sarah McCoy

Moderator: Friends in Christ, we are all received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of the church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Questions of the Candidates

Moderator: Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

I do

Moderator: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

I do

Moderator: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

I do

Moderator: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

I promise with the help of God.

Moderator: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrate Christ's presence and further Christ's mission in all the world?

I promise, with the help of God

Moderator: By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Do you promise in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

I promise with the help of God.

Questions of the Congregation

Do you promise to support these new members as they journey in faith with you today, and in the days ahead?

People: We do.

Welcome and Reception

Pastor: Let us, the members of Center Church of Hartford express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Moderator: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of Center Church of Hartford, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church. Go in the peace of Christ.

SCRIPTURE: *1 Samuel 3:1-10 & John 1:35-51*

SERMON: *Come and See*

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

STAR WORDS

SOLO: *Precious Lord Take my Hand*

Spiritual
Stewart Battle, soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY: *Let There be Peace on Earth*

Stewart Battle, soloist

*DOXOLOGY:

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low;

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER (*unison*)

Gracious God, we thank you for the mystery that you give yourself to us in love. Lamb of God, strengthen us in your courage and your love, to work for justice, gentle as lambs and resolute as lions, in the name and the spirit of Christ. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN: NCH 242 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free*

are. D. Reynolds

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 Thursday, 9:30am to 2:30pm

Library Hours by Appointment

P 860.249.5631 F 860.246.3915 www.centerchurchhartford.org

Senior Pastor: The Reverend Liza Arulampalam (ext. 202)

Coordinator for Justice & Faith Formation Ministries: Dr. Eric Hearst (ext 209)

*If you'd like to meet with Pastor Liza,
please schedule a time by
sending her an email at pastor@cchartford.org*

Minister Emeritus: The Reverend J. Alan McLean

Director of Music/Organist: Robert F. Gilbert (ext. 204)

Church Office Manager: Emily McKenna (ext. 200)

Bookkeeper: Brenda Russell (ext. 201)

Sexton: Thomas St. Amant

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](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

ON STREET PARKING is available during Sunday Worship Services on Gold Street and on the west side of Lewis Street, and is FREE on Sundays. The church is maintaining our relationship with the Traveler's Garage which is temporarily closed due to Covid-19. Stay tuned as we partner with other garages in the area.

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.

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