



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



**Order of Worship for  
February 25, 2024, 10:30am**

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

WANDERING HEART: "RESCUE ME FROM DANGER"

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

GATHERING MUSIC: *Put Your Hand in the Hand of the Man*

G. Maclellan

Worship Band: Dan Theriault, Logan Singerman, Arunan Arulampalam

CHORUS:

Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water  
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea  
Take a look at yourself and you can look at others differently  
By puttin' your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee

VERSE

Every time I look into the Holy Book I want to tremble (tremble)  
Or when I read about the part where the carpenter cleared the temple (temple)  
For the buyers and the sellers were no different fellas than what I profess to be  
And it causes me shame to know we're not the people we should be

CHORUS

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,

**All: the courageous and the fearful,**

the hungry and the hopeful,

**the impatient and the reserved.**

God welcomes the young and the old,

**the poets and the prophets,**

the faithful and the tired,

**the curious and the convicted.**

Wherever you are on your journey,

wherever your boat is at sea,

**there is room for all to gather here.**

This is God's house.

**Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.**

\*OPENING HYMN: *Into the Waters*

tune: HERZLIEBSTER JESU/"Ah Holy Jesus"

HYMN PRINTED ON THE NEXT PAGE

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

What is a silly or irrational thing that you are afraid of?

# Into the Waters

HERZLIEBSTER JESU 11.11.11.5

Words by Anna Strickland, 2023

Music by Johann Crüger, 1640



In - to the wa - ters, tim - id and un - stead - y  
But then the winds shift and I let my gaze break  
Safe in the boat I won - der where the fault lies  
Grace for the jour - ney, grace for all my fail - ings



Bare feet find pur - chase in the wa - ter's ed - dies  
Fear starts to drag me un - der - neath the lake's waves  
Was it the storm or my own reck - less de - sire  
Grace when I'm sink - ing, grace when storms as - sail me



Eyes fixed on Je - sus while the storm is ra - ging  
In my dis - tress I cry out to my Sa - vior,  
To have con - trol or prove my - self as a - ble  
Faith in my - self and faith in God's pro - vis - ion



And waves are break - ing  
"Save me from dan - ger!"  
Rath - er than faith - ful  
Not my am - bi - tion

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Congregation sings:*

***Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja (3X)***

***Halleluja! Hal-le-lu-ja!***

Caribbean Melody

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

**Holy God,**

**There are days where the wind is loud.**

**There are days where the rain tears through the trees  
and the storms of life beg for our attention.**

**So just as you stilled the wind and the sea, still our wandering hearts.**

**Quiet our restless minds.**

**Reach out your hand to us and pull us into your Word**

**so that we might hear, really hear, your message to us today.**

**With one foot out of the boat, we pray, amen.**

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 14:22-33*

*Psalms 22:23-31*

SERMON: *"It is I, do not be afraid."*

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSICAL RESPONSE: *Oceans*

Hillsong

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**Gracious God,**

**There are days that threaten to swallow us,  
days when the storms of life feel too big.**

**In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear,  
spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you.**

**Forgive us for doubting ourselves.**

**Forgive us for doubting you.**

**Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us.**

**With hope in our hearts we pray, Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY: *If My People Will Pray*

J. Owens  
Christopher Dukes, Tenor

\*DOXOLOGY: *Give Thanks*

H. Smith

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks, because he's given  
Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say 'I am strong',

let the poor say 'I am rich',

because of what the Lord has done for us; Give Thanks.

OFFERTORY PRAYER & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

**I believe in a God who moves toward me when storms rage.**

**I believe in a God who invites me to be brave.**

**I believe in a God whom the wind and waves obey.**

**I believe in a God who knows my name.**

**I believe in a God of love. I am not afraid.**

\*CLOSING SONG: *Shine Jesus Shine*

G. Kendrick

VERSE 1

Lord, the light of your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me

CHORUS

Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word

Lord, and let there be light

VERSE 2

Lord, I come to your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance  
By the blood I may enter your brightness  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness  
Shine on me, shine on me

VERSE 3

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
Shine on me, shine on me

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH:

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light

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## 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!



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### **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](http://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](mailto: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 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.

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