



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



Order of Worship for March 3, 2024, 10:30am

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

WANDERING HEART: "PRAISE THE MOUNT"

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PRELUDE: *I Call To Thee, Lord Jesus Christ*

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *INSPIRED BY PSALM 19*

One: If you ask the sky who God is,

All: the sky will tell you of God's reach.

If you ask the day who God is,

the sun will tell you of God's warmth.

If you ask the night who God is,

the moon will tell you of God's comfort.

"The heavens are telling the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1).

Are you listening?

We are listening!

We will sing of God's glory.

Let us worship Holy God.

*OPENING HYMN: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

tune: NETTLETON

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 was the last road trip you took? Who went with you?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Congregation sings:

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;

streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

Holy Word,

For generations people have bowed their heads, have prayed the Psalms, have asked for your presence in their lives.

For generations people have whispered, "May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable and pleasing to you, O God."

For generations we have gathered here,

we have quieted our minds, we have prayed to feel your presence in our midst.

So once again, just as the generations before, we turn our hearts to your Word. Still our busy minds so that we might truly comprehend what you have to say to us today.

With joy and hope we pray, amen.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 400

1. Come, thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to
2. Here I raise mine Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con -

sing thy grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good plea - sure,
strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter,

call for songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious
safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
bind my wan - dering heart to thee. Prone to wan - der, Lord, I

son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! I'm
stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God; he, to res - cue
feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O

fixed up - on it, mount of thy re - deem - ing love.
me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system contains the first three lines of lyrics. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the final three lines. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass accompaniment.

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 16:13-20*
Psalms 19

SERMON: *Road Tripping with Jesus*

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSICAL RESPONSE: *Here At the Peak*

tune: HAMBURG

Here at the Peak

HAMBURG 8.8.8.8

Words by Anna Strickland, 2023

Music by Lowell Mason, 1824



Here at the peak I clear - ly see
Here I pro - claim the truths I know
Here my Cre - a - tor stands en - fleshed
Here at the peak you clear - ly name



All of the pie - ces you've laid out
Be - yond the know - ledge of this world
In - fin - ite glo - ry here con - tained
Who you cre - a - ted me to be



And in this brief though time - less peace
Truths plant - ed deep with - in my bones
Hum - ble and rug - ged, simply dressed
I - den - ti - fied not by my shame



Such clar - i - ty oc - cludes my doubts
Brought to the light as gold un - earthed
Sav - ior of all on earth to reign
But by the gifts you gave to me

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Holy God,

Some days, we are quick to declare your goodness.

Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith.

Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.

Forgive us for losing sight of you.

Some days we are quick to trust your blessings—

trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference.

Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.

Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.

We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith.

But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace. Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith.

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

SANCTUS

The musical score for the Sanctus is written in 6/8 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has five measures with lyrics in Spanish and English. The second system has six measures with lyrics in Spanish and English. The chords are indicated above the notes.

System 1:

- Chords: C, G7, C, F, C
- Spanish lyrics: ¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
- English lyrics: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

System 2:

- Chords: F, C, Am, F, G7, C
- Spanish lyrics: cor - a - zón te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Dios.
- English lyrics: heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

THE BLESSING AND COVENANT

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *At the River*

Arr. A. Copland
Davis Martin, Warburton Music Intern

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY: *Soon and Very Soon*

Spiritual arr. A. Crouch
Center Church Choir

*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 & AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*responsive*)

One: We thank God for these gifts and in doing so, we affirm what we believe. Jesus asked the disciples, “But what about you? Who do you say that I am?” Church, what do you say?

All: Jesus is a hand reaching out in the storm, the voice of truth spoken over us, and love without walls. Jesus is justice for the weary, healing for the hurt, and welcome for the stranger. Jesus is teacher, Messiah, and friend— with me on the mountain and beside me in the valley. Jesus is a star in the night, and the love that knows my name.

Jesus asked, “Who do you say that I am?”

**Like Peter, we say,
“Jesus, you are the Messiah, son of the Living God.”**

*CLOSING HYMN: NCH 86 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

tune: LAUDES DOMINI

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE: *Toccatà in E Minor*

J.S. Bach

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