



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



**Order of Worship for
March 24, 2024, 10:30am**

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

WANDERING HEART: "SONGS OF LOUDEST PRAISE" – PALM SUNDAY

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PRELUDE: *Ceremonial Music for Organ and Timpani*

H. Purcell
Christopher Latournes, Timpani

WELCOME

MISSION MOMENT

Carrie Howe

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Sing songs of loudest praise!

All: Hosanna!

One: Sing songs that are unashamed.

All: Hosanna!

One: Sing songs without being afraid.

All: Hosanna!

One: Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

All: Hosanna!

One: Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

INVOCATION

*OPENING HYMN: NCH 213 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

tune: ELLACOMBE
PROCESSION OF CHILDREN & CHOIR

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

We encourage you to greet each other verbally or by a friendly wave of peace
What song do you always sing the loudest?

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*)

God of grace,

your Word is like a song.

It is the melody that we long to sing,

the refrain that we pray will get stuck in our heads.

So as we return to scripture once more,

we pray that you would allow us to sink into this song.

Allow us to hear the truth in between the words.

**Allow the cries of the crowd's "hosannas" to feel like our own.
With open hearts and open ears we pray, amen.**

SCRIPTURE: *John 12:12-16*

SERMON: *Don't Dismiss the Unusual: Everyday People Part III*

Dr. Eric Hearst

MUSICAL RESPONSE: *Verily*

T. Dubois

Stewart Battle, Baritone and Christopher Dukes, Tenor

Verily, thou shalt be in Paradise today with me. Amen, so I tell thee.
Hear me, O Lord, and remember me, when Thou come at into Thy Kingdom.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY: *Festival of Palms*

J. Martin

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

*CLOSING HYMN: NCH 216 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

ST. THEODULPH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMISSION & BLESSING (*responsive*)

One: God has given us light. We are sent into the world to share that light.

All: **This is God's doing; marvelous in our eyes. We will carry the light**

of Christ to the world.

One: God has offered us the keystone of life. We are called to build lives where God can dwell.

All: We offer ourselves as homes for God's reign among us. Praise God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

One: Give thanks for God's reign among us. Praise God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

All: Hosanna in the highest heaven! We trust in God and seek to serve in Christ's name.

One: Amen.

All: Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *The Emperor's Fanfare for Timpani and Organ*

A. Soler

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

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