



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



## Order of Worship for April 7, 2024, 10:30am

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

WANDERING HEART: "HERE'S MY HEART"

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE: *Rondeau*

J. J. Mouret

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus said,

**All: "Follow me."**

Jesus said,

**"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."**

Jesus said,

**"Forgive seventy times seven."**

Jesus said,

**"Feed my sheep."**

In response, we say:

**"Here's my heart.**

**Take and seal it.**

**Seal it for thy courts above."**

Let us worship God with all our hearts.

INVOCATION

\*OPENING HYMN: NCH 240 *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

tune: LLANFAIR

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

Can you remember a time when you had to go back to work even though something major just happened in your life or in the world?

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 second chances**

**and God of new life,**

**we have spent our days wandering.**

**Like Peter, we have had milled about  
through nearly every state of faith.**

**We have had courageous days**

**and convicted days,  
learning days  
and questioning days.  
We have had days where we run to you,  
days for diving out of the boat,  
days for deep joy,  
and days where the pain of the world feels too close to bear.  
So as we bring our wandering hearts to you,  
we ask that you draw us in.  
Allow this story to spark something new in us.  
Allow this story of grace to give us pause  
and pull us in.  
We are listening.  
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE: *John 21:1-19*

SERMON: *What Happens After the Resurrection?*

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

HYMN: NCH 241 *Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day*

tune: PUER NOBIS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

**Gracious God,  
Like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink.  
You tell us your truth and we push it away.  
We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance.  
We profess our faith and deny it three times.  
We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence.  
Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith.  
Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited  
imagination.  
Call us out of the boat once more. We are eager to return to you. With humble hearts  
we pray, amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY: *Since by Man Came Death*

G. F. Handel  
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 (*unison*)

**We believe in a God who shows up in our lives—  
surprising and catching us off-guard in the best of ways.  
We believe in a God who cares for God’s people—  
a shepherd who longs for her sheep to be fed and tended.  
We believe in a God who took on flesh—  
a God whose love changed the world as we know it.  
We believe that this here-and-now God invites us out of the boat,  
calling ordinary people like Peter, like us, into a life of service and community.  
And so we give our hearts. We give our whole hearts and nothing less. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN: NCH 230 *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

tune: ST. KEVIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE: *Toccata (Symphony V)*

Charles-Marie Widor

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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