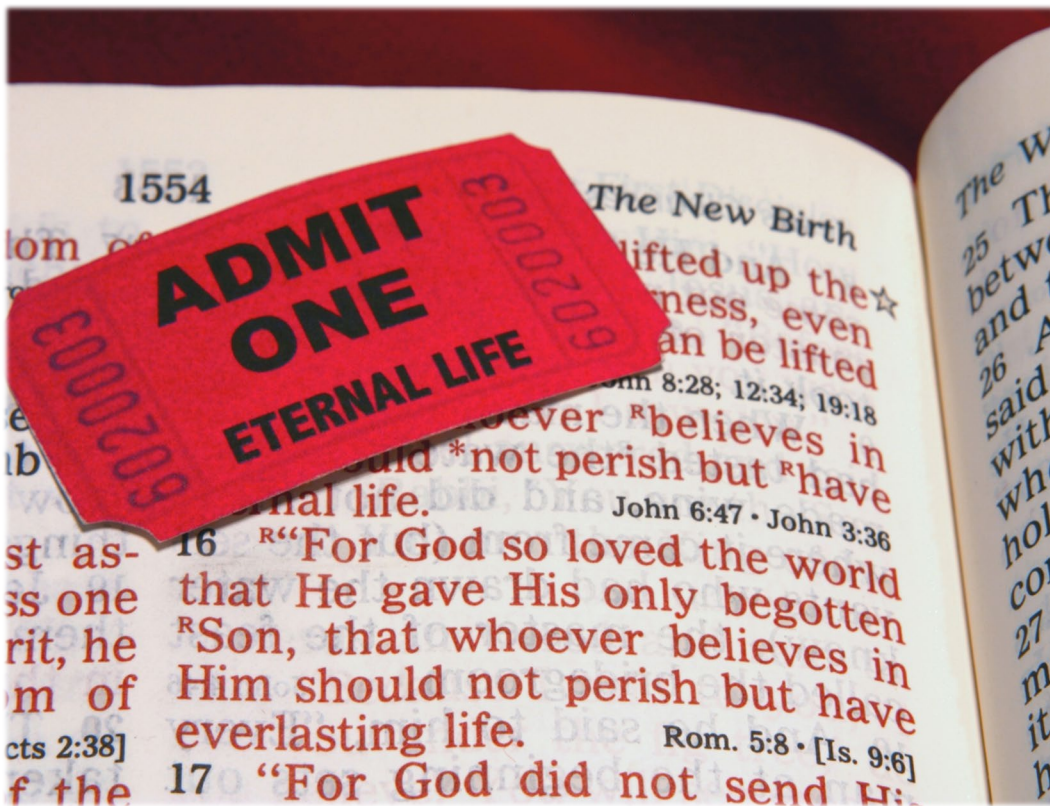




*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of The United Church of Christ*



Order of Worship for April 21, 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

ORGAN PRELUDE: *Arioso*

J.S. Bach

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Good Shepherd invites us to green pastures. We are refreshed beside still waters.

All: We have been given everything we have. God offers us everything we need.

One: When we walk through shadowed valleys, God is with us. We are comforted and reassured.

All: God leads us in the right paths. Our cups are overflowing.

One: God welcomes us to the table where love is expressed. We are invited to partake of the truth God offers.

All: We have received plenty that we might share. We are called to be God's helpers.

INVOCATION

*OPENING HYMN: NCH 43 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

tune: BEECHER

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Congregation sings:

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja (3X) Halleluja! Hal-le-lu-ja!

Caribbean Melody

SCRIPTURE: *1 John 3:16 -18*

SERMON: *What's Love Got to Do With It?*

Dr. Eric Hearst

MUSICAL RESPONSE: *The Gift of Love*

H. Hopson

Katie Suarez, Elizabeth Stassen, Warburton Music Interns

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY: *Deep Waters*

P. Choplin

Center Church Choir, Directed and Conducted by Music Intern Davis Martin

*DOXOLOGY:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here be-low;

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

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line (treble clef) and an organ line (bass clef). The second system also has a vocal line (treble clef) and an organ line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

OFFERTORY PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

How can we express our thanks, O God, for the one who laid down life itself in witness to your love for all people? We are aware that many have not experienced that love. We see their need, and we want to respond. Use what we offer to you to bring healing and peace to others not of this fold. Draw us together as one flock in the care of one shepherd, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN: NCH 473 *Blessed Assurance*

tune: ASSURANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

One: We are invited to make God's house our home. We are sent out into God's world to serve.

All: God has been with us through life's most foreboding valleys. We have been equipped to help others on their journeys.

One: When we ask God for what we need, God provides. When we are obedient, we know God abides in us.

All: God leads us by still waters and restores our souls. God knows us better than we know ourselves.

One: God's love in Jesus Christ has blessed us. We have received the gift of God's own Spirit.

All: Surely goodness and mercy will pursue us through life. We will dwell in the house of our Good Shepherd.

One: Amen. **All: Amen.**

CHORAL BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE: *The Heavens Declare the Glory of God*

B. Marcello

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

Hymns and Service Music reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-708141

[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