



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



Order of Worship for
July 7, 2024 10:00 am

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



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - COMMUNION SUNDAY

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PIANO PRELUDE *Go Down, Moses*

African-American Spiritual

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Listen.

I have a story to tell—

A story of a God who longed for justice.

A story of a God who pushed back the waters to make dry land.

A story of a God who would not take “no” for an answer when it came to the safety of God’s own.

For God’s people were suffering.

God’s people were crying out.

God’s people were shackled and bound by oppression.

So God said to Moses:

All: “Speak.”

“Let my people Go.”

One: And Moses spoke—

Over and over again.

Moses stood up for justice,

But over and over again, Pharaoh said:

All: No.

One: Power said no.

The path to justice is never easy, is it?

The path to change is never a straight line, is it?

So like Rosa, who sat on the bus, and Martin who had a dream,

Moses kept trying.

God kept speaking.

Moses kept listening.

Hope kept breathing.

And when power tried to unravel justice,
The people kept dreaming.
God longed for justice.
God *still* longs for justice.
So let us worship God—
For human injustice will never be strong enough to unravel God's dream
that all might be free,
And all might know love.

All: Let us worship holy God

*HYMN NCH 572 When Israel was in Egypt's Land

Tune: GO DOWN MOSES

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Congregation sings:

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

Caribbean Melody

SCRIPTURE Exodus 5: 1-2; 7: 8-23 (NRSV)

VIDEO "Passover Rhapsody"

SERMON *When Humans Unravel God's Plans for Justice*
The Rev. Liza Arulampalam

SONG Form Us

Arunan Arulampalam, guitar

Vineyard Worship

***Form us, make us, mold us, shape us
To be like You, moved to action,
Full of mercy and compassion.***

***Our hearts say Yes Lord, come take control
In us in us, come have Your way O Lord,
In us in us, Your way***

***Move us, lead us, send us, release us
To the broken, to the hungry,
to the outcast, to the weary***

***We want to love the things You love, hate the things You hate
As Your heart is formed inside us, may we learn to walk in grace
And extend the hand of mercy to set the captives free
Bringing freedom to the prisoner, bringing hope the blind can see
Mercy triumphs over judgment.***

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God, you have asked us to be like Moses—
Standing up for your people, standing up for justice.

**All: But too often we are like Pharaoh—
Holding onto power, or holding onto privilege.**

One: God, you ask us to be like Aaron—
Who stood by his brother to unravel systems of oppression.

**All: But too often we align with Pharaoh—
Saying “no” to change and unraveling your vision for justice and peace.**

One: Forgive us for all the ways we stand on the wrong side of history.

All: Forgive us for the harm we do to your planet, and for the harm we do to your children.

One: Help us to be like Moses.

**All: Forgive us when we’re like Pharaoh.
Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Telling the Story Anew

SANCTUS *NCH 793*

The musical score is written in 8/8 time and consists of two systems. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The bass staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The second system also has a treble and bass staff with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics continue below the treble staff.

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

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

Words of Institution

Invitation to the Table

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY People Need the Lord

P. McHugh/G. Nelson

Chris Dukes, Tenor

*DOXOLOGY:

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low;
Praise God a-bove, you heav-en-ly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN NCH 574 In Egypt Under Pharaoh

LANCASHIRE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*When Israel was in Egypt's land, let my people go,
Oppressed so hard they could not stand, let my people go!
Go Down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land.
Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.*

*Go Down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land.
Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.*