



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



Order of Worship for

August 11, 2024

10:00 am

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



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PIANO PRELUDE It is Well with My Soul

arr. B. Walters

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: So much in life is unpredictable.

All: Life begins and ends.

One: The weather changes.

All: Love surprises us.

One: Doors close.

All: Others open.

One: Life is unpredictable, but what we can count on is finding God in this space;

All: For this is God's house, and all are welcome.

One: So, bring your questions and concerns, your doubts, and wonderings,
For in the midst of this unpredictable life, we can predict this:

All: Love lives here.

Let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN NCH 488 Be Still, My Soul

FINLANDIA

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Have you been on your summer vacation yet? If so where did you go?

Congregation sings as children are dismissed to their classrooms:

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

Caribbean Melody

SCRIPTURE: John 20:19-29 (NRSV)

SERMON

“When the Unimaginable Happens”

The Rev. Liza Arulampalam

*MUSICAL RESPONSE NCH 438 When Peace Like a River

VILLE DU HAVRE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Amazing Grace

arr. D. Reynolds

David Reynolds, piano

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDRETH

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.

*RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND CONFESSION

- One: As we dedicate these gifts you to, O God, we confess that
You ask us to follow you, and we respond with logistical questions—
All: *How long? Where to? Will we return?*
- One: You ask us to love each other, and we respond with excuses—
All: *I don't know how. We don't see eye to eye.*
- One: You ask us to dream and we get stuck in our own heads—
All: *Change will never come. Is it worth it?*
- One: You ask us to believe, and like Thomas, we ask for proof—
All: *Unless I see the nails in his hands, I cannot believe.*
- One: Forgive us for our small-minded ways.
All: **Open our eyes as you open our hearts.**
- One: Unravel our doubt. Unravel our unbelief.
All: **Lead us to rest in you.**
Gratefully we pray, Amen.

*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 473 Blessed Assurance

ASSURANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

ASSURANCE

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long,
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long,
Praising my Savior, all the day long.*