



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



Order of Worship for

August 18, 2024

10:00 am

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



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

PIANO PRELUDE Jesus Loves Me arr. B. Bradbury

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When you dream, what do you dream of?

All: **We dream of children who know love and churches with open doors.
We dream of rest and sunny days.**

One: When you dream, what do you dream of?

All: **We dream of peace without walls,
And equality for all people.**

One: When you dream, what do you dream of?

All: **We dream of milk and honey, food on tables, and an end to suffering.
We dream of the Church of Jesus Christ serving all God's people.**

One: Family of God,

This morning, we dream together. This morning, we worship together. For there is nothing on heaven or on earth strong enough to unravel God's dreams for us. Let us worship Holy God.

*OPENING HYMN NCH 31 All Things Bright and Beautiful ROYAL OAK

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Who is a woman other than your mother who has
had a strong influence on your life?*

*Congregation sings as children are dismissed to their classrooms:
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja (3X) Halleluja! Hal-le-lu-ja!*

Caribbean Melody

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 1:22, 2:1-10 (NRSV)

SERMON “When Our Plans for Our Children Unravel”

The Rev. Liza Arulampalam

*MUSICAL RESPONSE NCH 327 Jesus Loves Me

JESUS LOVES ME

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Summer Choir

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDRETH

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.

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND CONFESSION

God, we dedicate these gifts to you, and as we do so we confess:

We do not know the plans you have for us.

We do not know, so we place our children into “good schools.”

We set aside money for days to come.

We keep our fingers crossed and try to control the world around us.

Having faith in the midst of uncertainty has never been easy for us.

Forgive us for the moments when we refuse to trust you.

Strengthen us so that when life unravels, we are strong enough to turn to you.

That is our prayer of faith.

Amen.

*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 325 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

STUTTGART

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE

*Jesus Loves Me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong, they are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*