



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



Order of Worship for

August 25, 2024

10:00 am

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



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

GATHERING SONG This is the Day

THIS IS THE DAY

*This is the day, this is the day,
That the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made,
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.*

*This is the day that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it!
This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made!*

*We are the ones, we are the ones,
Of the Living God, of the Living God,
We will rejoice, we will rejoice,
And be glad in Him, and be glad in Him.*

*We are the ones of the Living God,
We will rejoice and be glad in Him!
We are the ones, we are the ones,
Of the Living God!*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come in from the night.

All: It is a new day, and this is where love lives.

One: Take off your coat, let the weight fall off your shoulders;

All: For here, you are known. Here, you are loved.

One: Come in from the rain.

All: We can do anything together. We can survive together.

One: When the world unravels from under your feet—come in.

All: Come in.

One: Come in.

All: God is here. You are home. You will never be alone.

One: Let us worship the God who weaves us together. Amen.

*OPENING SONG I Will Call Upon the Lord

M. O'Shields

*I will call upon the Lord,
who is worthy to be praised.
So shall I be saved from my enemies.*

*The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock
and let the God of my salvation be exalted!*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Have you ever read the Book of Job before?

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

Caribbean Melody

SCRIPTURE: Job 28: 12-28 (NRSV)

SERMON "Seeking Understanding When Everything Has Fallen Apart"

The Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSICAL RESPONSE Jesus Draw Me Close

R. Founds

*Jesus, draw me close
Closer, Lord, to You
Let the world around me fade away
Jesus, draw me close
Closer, Lord, to You
For I desire to worship and obey*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Blessings

L. Story

Dan Theriault and Andrea Olson, soloists

*DOXOLOGY Give Thanks

D. Moen

**Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us"**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND CONFESSION**

**Holy God, we dedicate these gifts to you, and as we do so we confess:
We have been angry because we see suffering and we don't understand.
We have been skeptical because we know heartbreak that doesn't seem fair.
We have withheld love because sacrifice only feels real when it's our own.
Forgive us for forgetting that you created the heavens and the earth.
Forgive us for withholding our pain from you.
Forgive us for thinking that we know everything.
When the world falls apart around us—
When love unravels and life slowly fails—
Draw us in.
Show us grace; for you gave the wind its weight and you gave our bodies life.
Forgive us for forgetting that. Amen.**

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

***CLOSING SONG Shout to the Lord**

D. Zschech

*My Jesus, my Savior
Lord, there is none like You
All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You*

*Shout to the Lord
All the earth let us sing
Power and majesty praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION