



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



Order of Worship for
September 8, 2024 10:30 am

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - HOMECOMING SUNDAY

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE Andante Cantabile (Symphony IV)

C. M. Widor

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Listen, God is welcoming us to this time of worship.

All: **Young and old, rich and poor - this is a place where all belong.**

One: Come to sing praises and put your trust in God.

All: **We bring all our needs to God, our hope.**

One: The God of Mercy calls on us to be merciful.

All: **We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

*HYMN NCH 386 The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God our Creator, we thank you that today you have called us to worship you and learn of you. You alone know our needs. Satisfy them with your unending love. In your presence may we find comfort in sorrow, guidance in perplexity, strength to meet temptation, courage to face up to the hostility of this rebellious world, and abundant imagination to dream of a new creation. Above all, may we encounter your Spirit and go from our worship as a changed people. This prayer we ask in Christ's name. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

What is something you recently changed your mind about?

CHILDREN'S MOMENT – Asto Wamah Campers

Congregation sings:

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

Caribbean Melody

SCRIPTURE Mark 7: 24-37 (NRSV)

SERMON *The One where Jesus Changes His Mind*

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSICAL RESPONSE I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
Stewart Battle, soloist

African-American Spiritual

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Christ is Made the Sure Foundation
Center Church Choir

D. Wood

*DOXOLOGY:

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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN NCH 433 In the Bulb there is A Flower

PROMISE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Finale (Symphony IV)

C. M. Widor