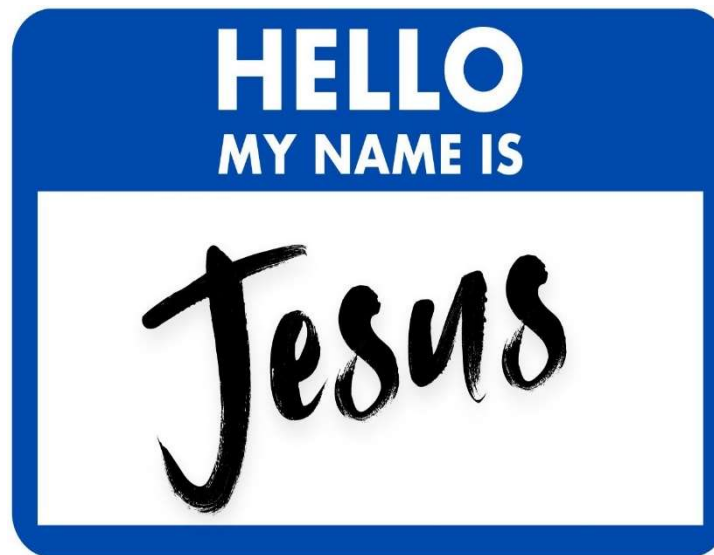




*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of The United Church of Christ*



Order of Worship for
September 15, 2024 10:30 am

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE Canon

Pachelbel

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of life, we praise you!

All: God of all Creation, we are in wonder!

One: Mother of all people, Father of the poor, all humanity is your praise.

All: In the Spirit of Christ, who calls us, we honor you.

One: In the name of all who love you, we thank you.

All: In the company of all who all who long for life, we worship you.

One: Your Christ calls us to life, calls us to compassion, calls us to follow.

All: Alleluia! Rise in us, Spirit of Life, and transform us by your grace. Alleluia!

*HYMN NCH 55 Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

MARION

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*unison*)

Spirit of mercy, though you are infinite, you come to us, embodied, near, and intimate. We thank you for the presence of Jesus; he is a mystery to us, and yet we love him. Open our hearts so we may behold him among us: teaching, healing, loving, setting us free. We pray in the grace and power of your Spirit. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*Ms. Niyah Davis
Warburton Church School Intern*

Congregation sings:

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

Caribbean Melody

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Do you like Pumpkin Spice?

SCRIPTURE Mark 8: 27-38 (NRSV)

SERMON *Peter Gets it Right, Peter Gets it Wrong*

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSICAL RESPONSE With a Voice of Singing
Center Church Choir

M. Shaw

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Blessings

L. Story

Dan Theriault and Andrea Olson

*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 (*unison*)

Gracious God, we give you our gifts as symbols of our lives. Receive them with love, bless them with grace, and use them according to your will. By your Spirit in us may we take up our cross and follow Jesus, willing to suffer for the sake of love. May we transcend ourselves and become one with Christ, infinite in love, for the sake of the healing of the world. Amen.

*HYMN NCH 204 "Take Up Your Cross," The Savior Said

GRENOBLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE The Heavens Declare the Glory of God

B. Marcello

September 15, 2024 ~ Today! ~ Congregational Conversation

Is the Spirit calling Center Church to identify our ministries with folks who are unhoused or experiencing housing insecurity as a mission priority?

Immediately following worship on Sunday, August 25, we will look at Center Church's ministries in Hartford which serve and witness to the poor, those who are unhoused, and all those in need.

- **Is the Spirit calling us to identify these ministries as a priority mission for Center Church?**
- **If so, how can we adequately staff and grow this mission so that these ministries become more than a bandage, how can we grow them into life-changing ministries?**

We hope that as many folks can attend as possible. We believe that when more people are involved in the conversation, our discussion is more reflective of our congregation. If you cannot attend in person, we invite you to submit questions, thoughts, and reflections on the above questions to the visionary team. We will include those submissions in our discussion.

Please continue to pray and listen for the Spirit's leading as we approach this conversation. As ever, thank you for your participation in the discernment process. We are honored to serve as your visionary team.

In faith,

The Visionary Team

Catherine Thompson Maclean, Timothy Otte, Alvin Thompson, Liza Arulampalam, Eric Hearst, Steven Lewis, Lesley Morgan Thompson

We will have light refreshments available and we will provide childcare.

