



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



**Order of Worship for
September 29, 2024 10:30 am**

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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PRELUDE Air on the G String

J. S. Bach

Catherine Thompson Maclean, Flute

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Friends, are any of you suffering?

All: If so, we will pray!

One: Are any cheerful?

All: If so, let us sing praises!

One: If any are in trouble God will raise them up;
and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

**All: So we confess our sins to each other,
accept the grace of forgiveness,
and commit ourselves as a reconciled community.**

One: Then let the praying and singing begin!

**All: Let the healing and forgiveness pour forth!
God, we worship you in gratitude, in humility, in hope!**

*HYMN NCH 494 We Who Would Valiant Be

ST. DUNSTAN'S

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*Unison*)

Creator God, following the example of Esther, when the way is difficult and dangerous, let us still choose what is good and just. When evil comes to break us down and break us apart, let us still choose to carry on with each other. When power from on high strikes fear in our hearts, let us still choose the courage to persist. For we know that the love and power of You, which abides in us, will not be overcome. Amen

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

What was the best childhood birthday party you ever had?

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

The Rev. Andrea Phillips
Lead Sunday School Teacher

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

Caribbean Melody

SCRIPTURE Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 (NRSV)

SERMON *For Such a Time as This*

The Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSICAL RESPONSE "Esther"
Riverfront Community Church Worship Band

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Divertimento # 4 in C
Catherine Thompson Maclean, Flute

W. A. Mozart

*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*)

Praise be to God who calls us to imagine and believe that another world is possible. That we were made for such a time as this. We praise the One who calls us into covenant with one another. God of all times and all places, remind us of the world as you intend it: free from hunger, poverty, violence, and oppression. Deliver these our gifts to the work of bringing hope and wholeness to all our neighbors. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL SONG Shine, Jesus, Shine

G. Kendrick

v1.

**Lord the light of your love is shining.
In the midst of the darkness shining.
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me. Shine on me.**

CHORUS

**Shine Jesus shine,
Fill this land with the Father's Glory!
Blaze Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow river flow,
Flood the nation with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word,
Lord, and let there be light!**

v2.

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
From the shadows into your radiance,
By your blood, I may enter your
brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my
darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me! *(to Chorus)***

v3.

**As we gaze on Your Kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from Glory to Glory,
Nearer here, may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, shine on me! *(to Chorus)***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Shine, Jesus, Shine *(reprise)*

G. Kendrick

**Shine Jesus shine,
Fill this land with the Father's Glory!
Blaze Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow river flow,
Flood the nation with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word,
Lord, and let there be light!**