



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



Order of Worship for

December 1, 2024 10:30 am

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – “MAKING ROOM”
COMMUNION SUNDAY

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PRELUDE Greensleeves

Traditional English Carol/arr. J. Nishimura

Catherine Thompson Maclean, flute soloist

WELCOME

THRESHOLD MOMENT – *We Open the Door*

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

The McCoy Family

*Today we offer the Light of Hope to illumine the Door of Welcome.
May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church.
May Hope awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality.
There IS room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.*

Congregational Response

Hope waits for us at Advent.

Hope waits for us to trust.

***Hope waits for our commitment
to a land that's kind and just.***

***In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
that heals the ones in pain,
Hope is born in us again!***

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

“All I Want for Christmas is You,”

Over-played Christmas Anthem or the Best Christmas Song ever?

*OPENING HYMN Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*Come, O long-expected Jesus,
Born to set your people free.
From and fears and sins release us;
Christ, in whom our rest shall be.*

*Born your people to deliver,
Born a child, and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Born your gracious realm to bring.*

*You, our strength and consolation,
Come salvation to impart;
Dear desire of many nations,
Joy of many longing hearts.*

*By your own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By your all-sufficient merit
Raise us to your glorious throne.*

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

The congregation sings as the children head to their classrooms.

*Go, Tell it on the Mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere!
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!*

African American Spiritual

SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 33: 14-16
 Psalm 25: 4-5

SERMON *Making Room*

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

*HYMN NCH 139 The First Nowell (*verses 1&2*)

Trad. English Carol

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

*Congregation refrain:
Make of my heart a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for hope to live and grow.*

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS NCH 793

The musical score for Sanctus NCH 793 is presented in two systems. The first system includes the lyrics: "¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My". The second system includes the lyrics: "cor - a - zón te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Dios. heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God." The score is written for a single melodic line with a bass line accompaniment. Chord symbols (C, G7, F, Am) are placed above the notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Anthem "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Dan Theriault, guitar and vocals

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

BLESSING OF THE SHELTER MINISTRY

OFFERTORY O Holy Night

A. Adam

Catherine Thompson Maclean, flute soloist

*DOXOLOGY NCH 135 (*refrain*)

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 133 O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Noël

L. Daquin

Thank you to everyone who participated in today's worship!

