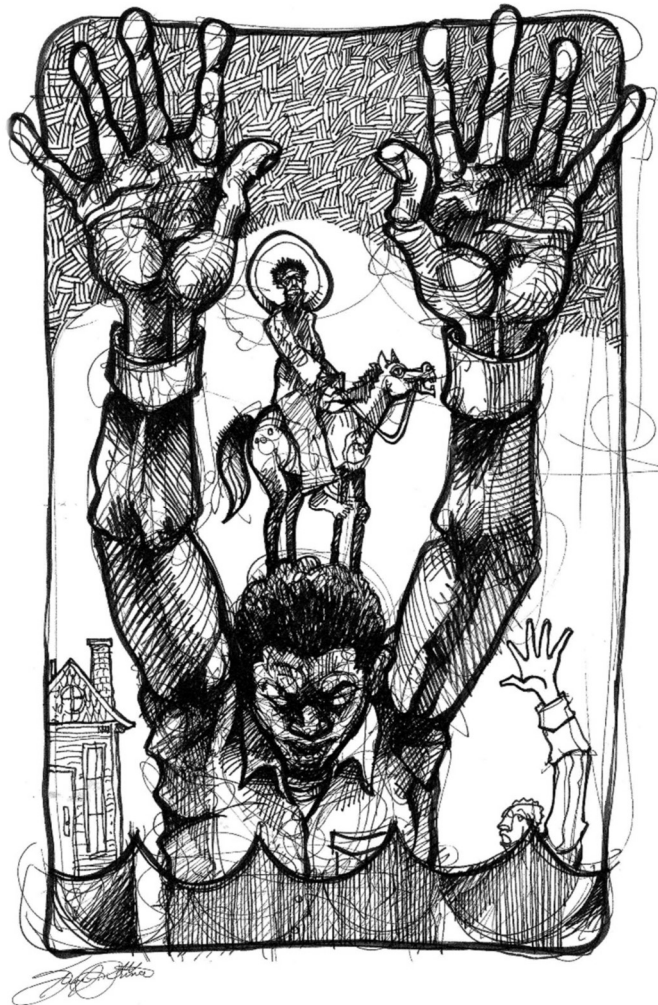




*An Open and Affirming Congregation  
of The United Church of Christ*



**Order of Worship for**  
**April 13, 2025      10:30 am**

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



## If You Really Listen...

In the city you'll hear horns, the clatter of the subway,  
mothers calling to their children, saying,

*"Take my hand before we cross the street."*

You'll hear church bells, Salvation Army bells,  
people asking for spare change, while others ask  
for directions.

You'll hear the whistle from the traffic cop,  
the exhaust from the bus,  
*that a train is arriving in two minutes.*

You'll hear mothers selling fresh mango,  
theater kids selling tickets,  
and religious groups selling ideas.

But even with all that shouting,  
even with all that noise,  
the birds still sing.

Against all odds,  
thanks be to God,  
the birds still sing.

*Poem by  
Rev. Sarah Speed*

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR APRIL 13, 2025  
SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT – PALM SUNDAY  
*EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN: SHOUTING AND SILENCE*

*Cover art: "I Believe" by Steve Prince*

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PRELUDE Royal March for Organ and Timpani G. F. Handel  
*Christopher Latournes, Timpani*

CHORAL INTROIT Sing Hosannah J. J. Martin

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On this day, Jesus marched  
in between the city walls and the Temple,  
in between joyful Hosannas and doubtful whispers,  
in between oppressive poverty and greedy power,  
in between rampant fear and hope unfurled.  
On this day, Jesus marched in between what had been and what could be.  
So may we meet Christ in that liminal space.  
May we lay down our coats in that messy middle.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in between!

**All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!**  
**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: God meets us in the night -

**All: before the sun rises, before the wound heals, before there are answers, before there is closure**

God meets us in the light -

**where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious, where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk, where people gather around tables.**

One: God meets us in between -

**All: at the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness, at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.**

And if God meets us in all those places,

**then surely God meets us everywhere - at the water's edge, at the start of something new, after the baptism, and before the call.**

We are not alone. God is all around.

**Let us worship the God of everything.**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NCH 213 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!

ELLACOMBE

*As our young people and Sunday school teachers parade up the center aisle of the Meetinghouse and down the sides, feel free to join them in body or spirit, waving palms and branches, shouting "Hosanna, Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord!"*

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

*Congregation sings:*

***Amen, Amen! Amen, Amen, Amen! (2x)***

***This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! (2x)***

***Let it shine, let it shine to show my love.***

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speaking God,  
Most days we are inundated with noise.  
Some of it is good—  
laughter, music, storytelling.  
Some of it is hard—  
arguments, slurs, the sound of bomber planes.  
Every day we live between silence and shouting,  
rotating through quiet and noise.  
So in the midst of this messy middle,  
help us to hear what is yours.  
Help us to hear your song,  
your story, your good news.  
Help us to hear your voice,  
your Spirit, your will.  
And show us how to release the rest.  
We are listening.  
Amen.

SCRIPTURE      Luke 19: 29-40

SERMON      *Between Shouting and Silence*

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

MUSICAL RESPONSE The Holy City  
*Stewart Battle, soloist*

S. Adams

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Great Creator, forgive me  
when I speak before listening,  
when I speak over my neighbor,  
when I speak with barbed words.  
Creator God, forgive me  
when I listen to society,  
when I listen to my friends,  
when I listen to the news,  
but I do not listen to you.  
Creator God, forgive me  
when I shout out, but do not shout your name,  
when I listen, but do not listen for your voice.  
Forgive me.  
Create in me a heart like yours.  
Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY The Palms

J. Faure

*Center Church Choir  
Stewart Battle, soloist*

\*DOXOLOGY NCH 780

OLD HUNDRETH

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts:  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!***

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe that many years ago  
a peaceful parade wove its way through the streets of Jerusalem.  
We believe that on that day  
the people cried out,  
longing and praying for a better world.  
We believe that these longings  
came from a place of deep hope,  
and we believe  
that hope cannot be silenced.  
So, we listen for the Spirit.  
We sing Hosanna.  
We pay attention.  
For in between the silence and the song,  
we believe the Spirit is speaking.  
Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN NCH 216 All Glory, Laud and Honor**

**ST. THEODULPH**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

As you leave this place,  
may you find God in every messy middle.  
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.  
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,  
and therefore, you contain multitudes.  
So may you move through this world with an open heart,  
with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.  
God is with you in the mountains,  
in the valleys,  
and everywhere in between.  
Believe that good news, and go in peace.

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE The Emperor's Fanfare for Timpani and Organ**

**A. Soler**

*Christopher Latournes, Timpani*

*Thank you to everyone who participated in worship this morning. Go in Peace!*