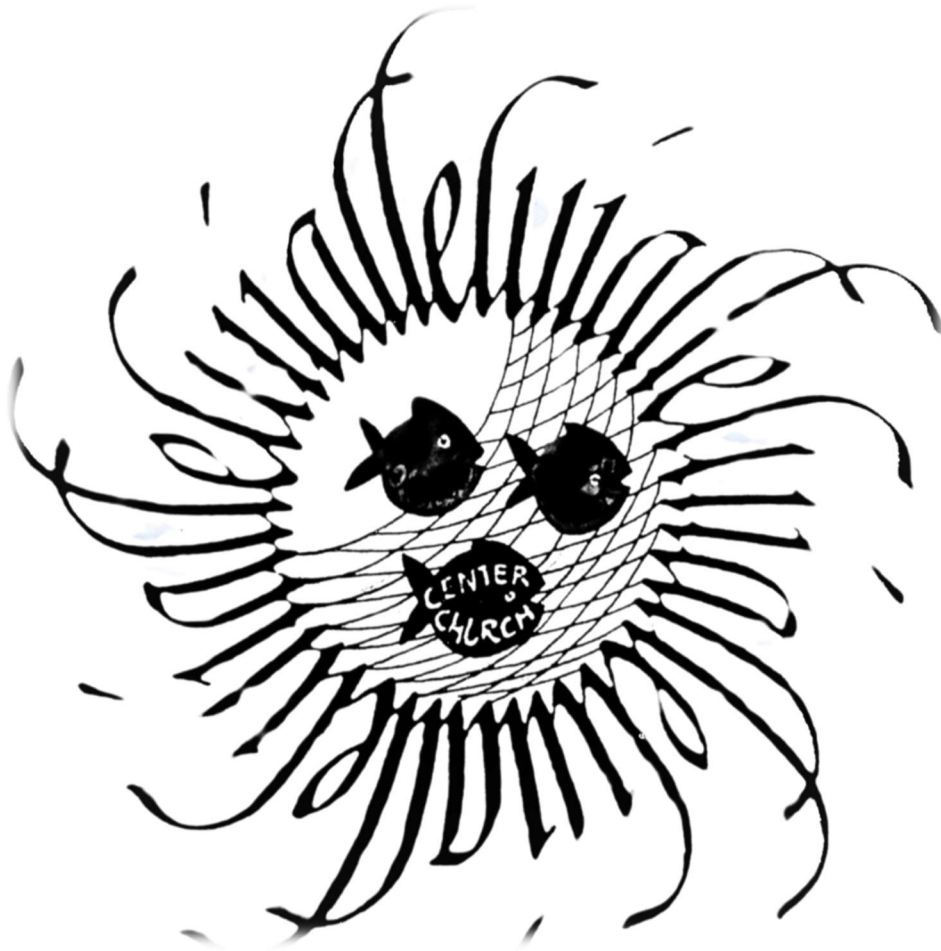




*An Open and Affirming Congregation  
of The United Church of Christ*



**Order of Worship for**  
**May 4, 2025      10:30 am**

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP – MAY 4, 2025  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER - COMMUNION SUNDAY

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE Ceremonial Music for Organ

H. Purcell

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Based on John 21: 1-19*

One: Come, beloved of God, to the shore where Jesus stands—  
calling, waiting, welcoming with grace.

**All: We come, weary from the night, with empty nets and tired hearts.  
But Jesus meets us with abundance.**

One: He invites us to cast again, to trust once more,  
and fills our nets beyond what we can hold.

**All: He prepares a table for us, feeds us, and speaks our name in love.**

One: “Do you love me?” He asks—not with judgment, but with hope.  
“Then follow me.”

**All: We come to worship the risen Christ,  
to be renewed in love and sent again in faith.  
Here we are, Lord—feed us, fill us, send us.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

\*OPENING HYMN NCH 230 Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain

ST. KEVIN

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

The Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

*The congregation sings as the children head to their classrooms.*

***Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah! (3x)  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!***

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE      John 21: 1-19

SERMON          *After These Things: Trusting God in Times of Great Uncertainty*  
Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

MUSICAL RESPONSE Lord, I Want to be More Loving  
*Sabrina Russotto, Mica Guzman*  
*Ian Duncan, Dan Theriault*

## RITUAL OF CONFESSION

*Call to Confession*

*Unison Prayer of Confession*

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not always lived as Your people.  
We have failed to love You with our whole hearts,  
and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We cling to worry and let go of trust.  
We choose comfort over courage, and silence over justice.  
Forgive us, O God.  
Turn us toward Your light.  
Renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way of Christ  
so that we may live as vessels of Your grace. Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon*

One: Hear the good news:  
God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting.  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven—  
not because we have earned it,  
but because grace is God's gift, freely given and forever sure.  
So, rise, beloved of God—  
for you are known, loved, and made new.

**All: Thanks be to God, Amen!**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### *Words of Institution*

### *Invitation to the Table*

One: In Luke's Gospel, we read that Jesus, at the table with two of the disciples, took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we read that as the church was gathered, often in the homes of the believers, Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and community, to the breaking of bread, and prayers.

**ALL: Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we gather at your table to know you in the breaking of the bread.**

### *Breaking of Bread & Pouring of Cup*

### *Sharing of the Elements*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION Amazing Grace  
*David Reynolds, piano*

Arr. D. Reynolds

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior who taught us to pray saying, "**Our Father...**"

## CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Clap Your Hands

N. Roberts

*Center Church Choir  
Stewart Battle, soloist*

## \*DOXOLOGY NCH 780

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

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

One: Generous and faithful God,  
we bring these gifts as a sign of our love,  
a symbol of our gratitude,  
and a response to Your boundless grace.  
Bless what we offer—  
our money, our time, our hearts—  
and use it to bring healing, hope, and light  
to a world in need.  
May our giving reflect Your goodness,  
And may our lives reflect Your love.  
In the name of Christ, we pray,

**All: Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN NCH 245 The Day of Resurrection

LANCASHIRE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

One: Jesus meets us on the shore—  
not with judgment, but with breakfast and grace.

**All: We go, fed by His mercy and called by His love.**

He says, “Do you love me?”

Then tend, feed, and follow.

**We follow the risen Christ,  
into the world He loves.**

**All: May we go in peace,  
with open hands and faithful hearts.  
Amen.**

CHORAL BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE Toccata (from *Symphony V*)

C. M. Widor

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