



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



**Order of Worship for  
May 11, 2025      10:30 am**

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR MAY 11, 2025  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MOTHERING SUNDAY

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE For the Beauty of the Earth

T. T. Noble

CHORAL INTROIT

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Holy God, heavenly Mother,  
you have given us birth and watched over us in love. We praise you.

**All: Risen Christ, loving brother, you have shared with us the gift of life.  
We thank you.**

Holy Spirit, confident sister, you have walked with us and believed in us.  
We give you our hearts.

**Eternal God, Holy Trinity, family of grace, we worship you.**

**We gather at the family table to tell stories, to share bread,**

**and to give each other our hearts,**

**so that our lives will be changed. Alleluia!**

\*OPENING HYMN NCH 427 God Made from One Blood

ST. DENIO

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Theeran Samuel Arulampalam*

**Pastor:** Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

**People:** **There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.**

**Pastor:** Jesus came to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptized by you," John said, "yet you have come to me!"

**People:** **Jesus said, "Let it be so for now. For in this way, we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed.**

**Pastor:** As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him.

**People:** **Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased."**

**Pastor:** At another time Jesus said: Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ and given part in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. Baptism is a visible sign of an invisible event: the reconciliation of people to God. It shows the death of self and the rising to a life of obedience and praise. It shows also the pouring out of the Holy spirit of those whom God has chosen. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be God's people always.

**People:** **This is the water of baptism. Out of this water, we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

### *Questions of the Candidate*

### *Congregational Assent*

**Pastor:** Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized as he lives and grows in Christ?

**People:** **We promise our love, support and care.**

### *Act of Baptism*

### *Baptismal Prayer*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

*Congregation sings:*

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

***Hallelujah, Halle-lu-jah!***

SCRIPTURE Acts of the Apostles 9: 36-43

SERMON *Tabitha*

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSICAL RESPONSE Every Mother, Every Father

Porter's Gate

*Arunan Arulampalam*

*Every mother, every father*

*called to raise up sons or daughters*

*May your heart be patient, may your mind be clear,*

*may our God be with you,*

*and calm your fears.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE A Pastoral Litany for Mother's Day

Leader: On Mother's Day, let us remember that this day is marked with joy or sadness or a little of both as we pray together.

**People: In our joy and sadness, we give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: For the love of family and for motherhood in all its various forms.

**People: We give our loving God thanks and praise.**

Leader: For all women who are marginalized, vulnerable, worried, exhausted, and frustrated,

**People: We pray for justice and peace.**

Leader: For families who are keeping their distance to keep their loved ones safe,

**People: We pray that these measures keep us safe and well.**

Leader: For the women who do not feel safe in their home,

**People: We pray to God for strength, courage, and a safe escape.**

Leader: For relationships that are strained and no longer a source of joy,

**People: We pray for healing in reconciliation or in healthier boundaries.**

Leader: For children whose mothers have died, that live no longer together, and for mothers who grieve, who have lost children born or unborn,

**People: We weep with those with broken hearts and comfort those who mourn.**

Leader: For those who are raising children, who are supported by spouse and family, and those who are struggling to do it all on their own,

**People: We pray that we may be their community, offering real help in hard times.**

Leader: For those who are preparing to have emptier nests, who hope they have raised children strong enough to fly into the world and back home to visit.

**People: We both celebrate and mourn with you.**

Leader: For stepmothers, navigating the pitfalls and pleasures of creating a new family,

**People: We pray for wisdom, patience, grace, and love.**

Leader: For Grandmothers who are doing the hard work of raising children again, for aunts and sisters and all of those who have taken on a parenting role,

**People: We pray for caregivers, offering our care for them too.**

Leader: For those who are waiting and sometimes struggling with the biological process to bring new life, and for those who are waiting for the adoptive process to be fulfilled.

**People: We wait with you, listening to your joys and sorrows along the way.**

Leader: For same sex couples raising children,

**People: We pray for acceptance and love.**

Leader: For women who do not have children, but instead teach, lead, care for, and guide the children of others,

**People: We give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: For the grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters, daughters, and granddaughters in our midst and around the world. For those who face discrimination on the basis of their assigned gender or gender identity. For women who are struggling silently. For women who are brave enough to speak out. For women who are compassionate, who listen to the afflicted. For the caregivers, prophets, preachers, teachers, leaders, mystics, and healers. For Moms, in their wide variety and many forms,

**People: We give God thanks and praise.**

LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY      Christ is Made the Sure Foundation      D. Wood  
*Center Church Choir*

\*DOXOLOGY NCH 780      OLD HUNDREDTH  
*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 (*Unison*)

**Gracious God: Grounded in your love, we offer these gifts to you. We pray that through them your goodness and grace would be activated in our neighborhood. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN NCH 426 O God, Whose Steadfast Love      RHOSYMEDRE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE      Trumpet Voluntary      J. Stanley

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