



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



i saw  
a new  
heaven  
& a new  
earth

Order of Worship for  
May 18, 2025      10:30 am

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR MAY 18, 2025  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE Adagio (Sonata I)

F. Mendelssohn

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

**All: Let our joy be complete!**

Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach us a new song:

**Love one another!**

Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will join in the new song:

**No longer servants but friends!**

Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

**Rejoicing in the friendship of God.**

\*OPENING HYMN NCH 427 The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Do you like change or dread it?*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Rev. Andrea Phillips

*Congregation sings:*

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

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

SCRIPTURE Acts of the Apostles 11: 1-18  
Revelation 21: 1-6

SERMON *Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes*

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSICAL RESPONSE NCH 433 In the Bulb, There is a Flower

PROMISE

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord

For the peace of the world, and for the unity of all peoples... Let us pray to the Lord.

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For the United Church of Christ and all of its leaders, both lay and clergy. For the volunteers who give of their time to serve the church... Let us pray to the Lord.

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority... Let us pray to the Lord.

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For the City of Hartford, for every city and community, and for those who live in them... Let us pray to the Lord.

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For the beauty of nature, and for the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it... Let us pray to the Lord.

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For those who are sick and suffering... Let us pray to the Lord.

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them... Let us pray to the Lord.

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed... Let us pray to the Lord.

**God of mercy, hold us in love.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

## CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY      Listen to the Lambs

R. N. Dett

*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*)

**God, bless these, your gifts that we now return to you. Bless them in their giving and receiving, bless all those who give and all those who receive. We pray that these, our gifts, be your gifts, showing your words, sharing your love, and building your kingdom. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN NCH 377 Forward Through the Ages

ST. GERTRUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION

*From the Mennonite Church of Canada*

God invites us into his future,

where the one who makes all things new has made his home among us.

We are called and chosen,

Together, embraced by the God in whom tears,

mourning, crying, pain and even death will be no more.

Remember God's future, for this is our story.

Our Lord says, "See, I am coming soon!"

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION Amen

J. Rutter

POSTLUDE      Allegro Assai Vivace (Sonata I)

F. Mendelssohn

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