



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



**Order of Worship for
May 25, 2025 10:30 am
Camp Asto Wamah in Columbia, CT**

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR MAY 25, 2025
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – CAMP SUNDAY

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

WELCOME

GATHERING WORDS

One: God is good,

All: All the time!

All the time,

God is good!

Together: Let us worship our Good God!

*GATHERING MUSIC Do Lord

African American Spiritual
adapted

Chorus

Do lord, Oh do lord, Oh do remember me! (x3)

Look away beyond the blue!

I've got a home in glory land, that outshines the sun (x3)

Look away beyond the blue! (to chorus)

Center Church has come to camp to sing and to pray (x3)

Look away, beyond the blue. (to chorus)

All our friends are here with us and Jesus is too (x3)

Look away, beyond the blue! (to chorus)

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Inspired by Psalm 148*)

Leader: Praise God!
Adults: **Praise God in heaven and on the mountains!**
Children & Youth: **Praise God, all angels!**
Leader: Praise God, sun and moon and shining stars!
Adults: **Praise the one who created all things and set them in place forever!**
Children & Youth: **Praise God, sea monsters and deep oceans!**
Leader: Praise God, fire and hail, snow and frost and stormy wind!
Adults: **Praise God, mountains, hills, and all trees!**
Children & Youth: **Praise God, wild animals and tame animals, creeping bugs and flying birds!**
Leader: Every person on earth, of every class and gender and age,
Praise God!
All: **Praise God!**

*OPENING SONG This is the Day (That our God has made)

*This is the day, this is the day,
that our God has made, that our God has made.
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.*

*This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that our God has made*

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*SONG Kum-ba-yah (Come by Here) African American/Gullah Folk Spiritual

*Kum-ba-ya my Lord, kum-ba-ya
Kum-ba-ya my Lord, kum-ba-ya
Kum-ba-ya my Lord, kum-ba-ya
Oh Lord, kum-ba-ya*

Someone's singing, Lord, Kumbaya....

Someone's praying, Lord, Kumbaya....

Kumbaya, my Lord, Kumbaya....

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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.**

Baptism Testimonies

Anabelle Louise McCoy
Landon Ja'Rell Preston
Sahana Miriam Arulampalam
Nivadita Jane Arulampalam
Dayanand Gregory Arulampalam
Martha-Rea Sunshine Nelson

Loretta S. Nelson
Nilsa Cierpikowski
Steven Donald Lewis
Erline Parkes
Maegen Garthwaite Casey

Questions of the Candidates

***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 ones about to be baptized as they live and grow in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support and care.

Baptismal Prayer

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Martha-Rae Sunshine Nelson
Loretta S. Nelson

Invitation

Question of the Candidates

**Welcoming of New Members*

Pastor: Let us, the members of The First Church of Christ in Hartford, Center Church, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love



CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY I'll Fly Away

A. E. Bromley

*DOXOLOGY

*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 / LORD'S PRAYER

SONG Rise and Shine (with hand motions!)

*The Lord told Noah there's gonna be a floody, floody,
Lord told Noah there's gonna be a floody, floody;
Get those animals out of the muddy, muddy, Children of the Lord!*

Chorus

*Rise, and shine, and give God the glory, glory,
Rise, and shine, and give God the glory, glory,
Rise, and shine, and give God the glory, glory, Children of the Lord!*

*The Lord told Noah to build Him an arky, arky,
Lord told Noah to build Him an arky, arky,
Build it out of hick'ry barky, barky, Children of the Lord! (to Chorus)*

*The animals, the animals, they came in by twosies, twosies,
Animals, the animals, they came in by twosies, twosies,
Elephants and kangaroosies, 'roosies, Children of the Lord! (to Chorus)*

*It rained and poured for forty daysies, daysies,
Rained and poured for forty daysies, daysies,
Almost drove those animals crazies, crazies, Children of the Lord! (to Chorus)*

*The sun came out and dried up the landy, landy,
Look, there's the sun! It dried up the landy, landy,
Everything was fine and dandy, dandy, Children of the Lord! (to Chorus)*

*That is the end of the end of my story, story,
That is the end of the end of my story, story,
Everything is hunky dory, dory, Children of the Lord! (to Chorus)*

LITANY OF BLESSING

One: On this Camp Sunday, we celebrate Camp Asto Wamah. Each camper has heard God's call to spend time in this special place this summer. As the Holy Spirit prepares their hearts, we want to pray for them and with them. We also want to pray for those who are not here and will fill this lodge and the cabins. For the miracle of creation, in all its infinite diversity and splendor, we give thanks to the One who sustains us.

All: We give you thanks, Holy One.

One: For the rhythm of a paddle gently striking the water, the morning mist in a field of clover, the call of the loon, the radiance of sunset, the sparkle of water, and the dance of the dragonflies,

All: We give you thanks, Creator God.

One: For all those who need to be part of an inclusive community, a place where the natural world radiates, or to both, and yet, who cannot find the time or courage to do so,

All: We give thanks for the places in our lives that give us renewal and help us to deeply know others on the journey.

One: For all camps and retreat centers, and all sacred places whose mission is to bring people to an awareness of your glory. We pray for each participant at Camp Asto Wamah, that they may have a safe and meaningful experience, and a season of strengthening faith,

All: We pray to you, God.

One: For the safe travel to camp and safety while here,

All: We pray to you, God.

One: For the fun time in fellowship together and the relationships strengthened at camp,

All: We pray to you, God.

One: For new ways campers will experience your love through prayer, games, nature hikes, and all that camp has to offer,

All: We pray to you, God.

One: For the Asto Wamah staff, who will need strength, energy, guidance, and endurance to serve you this summer as they work with campers,

All: We pray to you, God.

One: For your Holy Spirit to work in exciting and unexpected ways through the outdoor ministry of Center Church Camp Asto Wamah,

All: We pray to you, God.

One: For this beautiful place, infused with divinity, called Camp Asto Wamah. Bless this season with grace, abundance, safety, connection, and love.

All: We pray to you, God.

One: And God, please help all of us to live out the message of Camp Asto Wamah, as inspired by Jesus:

All: To love You, to love ourselves, and to love our neighbor. Amen.

BENEDICTION

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