



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



Order of Worship for
June 8, 2025 10:00 am

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP – JUNE 8, 2025
THE FEAST OF PENTECOST – THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PIANO PRELUDE Wade in the Water

African American Spiritual
arr. M. Hayes

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)
from enfleshed ministries

One: Pentecost is coming.
It will be an end and a beginning.
It will bewilder and confuse.
Though some will fight it,
the aching world calls it forth with urgency.

All: Come, Spirit, come.

The Spirit who moves like “a rush of violent wind...”
Who appears like fire...
Who is the breath of God...
She comes to us unconcerned with order,
wild with freedom,
turning over anything and everything that stands in Her way.

**Let Her come and fill our mouths with words we didn’t know we could speak.
Let Her come and help us hear in languages we once could not understand.**

She is being poured out.
The people will prophesy.
The heavens will draw near.
The chorus of voices-past will join in
and proclaim the truth of God.

Justice *will* come.

Do not be like the ones who sneer and ask,

“Are they drunk?!”

Do not be surprised by what’s happening as if
the scriptures and history and the prophets have not foretold...
You’ve heard it said –

**The sun will burn out and the moon turn to blood
before the day of Justice arrives.**

Instead, open your hearts
and pray that God’s grace
may carry you into the Kin-dom.

**Let courage rise up.
Let passion enflame.
Let love transform.**

Come, Spirit, Come.
And turn the world of evil upside-down.

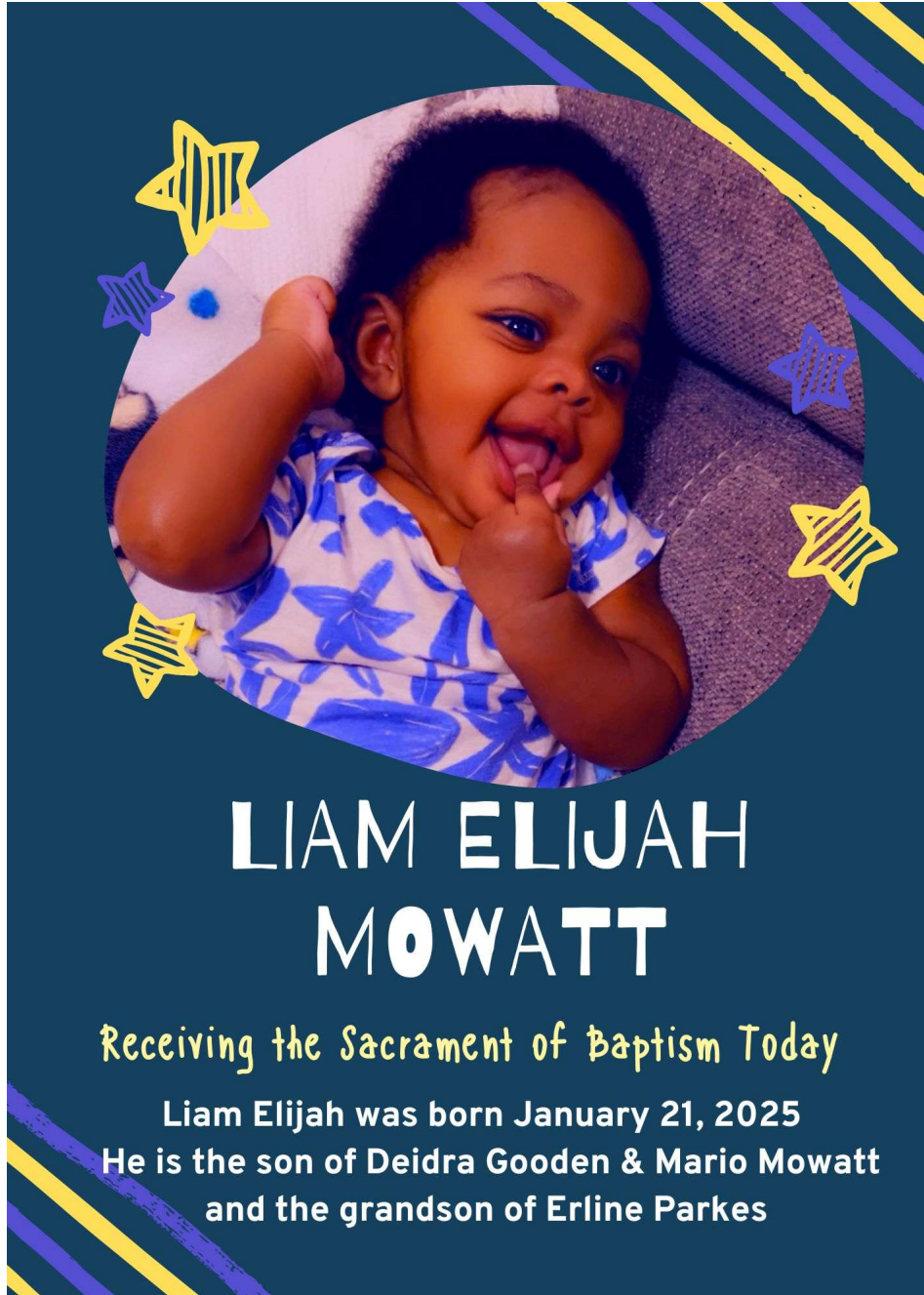
Let it be so, Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NCH 272 On Pentecost They Gathered

MUNICH

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Greet your neighbor in a language other than English.



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Liam Elijah Mowatt

son of Deidra Gooden and Mario Mowatt; grandson of Erline Parkes

Introduction to Baptism

Affirmations of the Family

**Congregational Assent*

- Pastor: In baptism, we commit ourselves to the nurture of this child. Church, are you ready to dedicate yourselves to this beloved child of God?
- People: We are prepared. We dedicate our minds and hearts to this child and to their parents.**
- Leader: Will you strive to love and cherish them in times of struggle, as well as gladness?
- People: We will love and cherish them always.**
- Leader: We acknowledge the divine spark within each child.
- People: May we be worthy guardians of this young life. May we build a community in which they will grow old surrounded by beauty, embraced by love, and cradled in the arms of peace.**

Act of Baptism

Congregational Prayer of Dedication

All: God of wonder and grace, we thank you for your love revealed here this day as this community, these parents, and this child come together making covenant promises. We pray that this community will have the grace to uphold the promises made here this day, providing a safe shelter of your love in which this child may grow and play. We pray that these parents may continue to feel the sweet wonder of your presence so transparent here today. We pray that this child will bask in your love as she makes her own journey through this life. Amen.

PRESENTATION HYMN NCH 325 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

STUTTGART

**Children are dismissed to their classrooms.*

Congregation Sings:

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

Hallelujah, Halle-lu-jah!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

SCRIPTURE Acts 2: 1-21

SERMON *God the Party Crasher*

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSICAL RESPONSE NCH 293 Sweet, Sweet Spirit

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

J. K. Manley

Deb Moyer, soprano

*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: Holy One,
you have given yourself to us
in Creator, in Christ, in the Spirit.
We now give back to you:

**All: this money that seems so little;
this worship that seems so small;
these words that never quite get it right.**

Receive what we offer
and transform it by the power of your Spirit into:
**enough money,
sufficient praise,
worthy words
for proclaiming and enacting
your peace, justice, and love in the world.**

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 282 Every Time I Feel the Spirit

African American Spiritual
Arr. J. F. Johnson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION FOR PENTECOST

From the Presbyterian Church of Canada

As you enter a new week,
may you experience God's presence.
May you feel God pouring out the Holy Spirit
over your heads and your thoughts and the words of your lips,
over your hearts and your feelings and emotions
and your compassion for all others,
and over your hands and your feet
as you put into action all that God commands you.

During this week,
may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with each of you; Amen.

All: Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL POSTLUDE Every Time I Feel the Spirit (*reprise*)

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