

An Open and Affirming Congregation of The United Church of Christ



Order of Worship for

July 6, 2025 10:00 am

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP – JULY 6, 2025 CENTER CHURCH ROAD TRIP: ARCHES NATIONAL PARK

*Please rise in body or spirit.

CHIMES

PIANO PRELUDE Great Fountain Etude

E. Correll

David Reynolds, piano

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Philippians 2

One: We come together to celebrate Jesus Christ, All: Who, though He was in the form of God,

did not consider being equal with God something to exploit.

One: Instead, he emptied Himself completely,

He humbled himself,

becoming obedient to the point of death, even a humiliating death on a cross of wood.

All: So God raised Him up with great honour, and gave Him a name above all other names,

One: That at the name of Jesus

everyone—

in heaven and on earth and even under the earth

might bow down,

and every tongue confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord

to the glory of God the Father.

All: This is our God—

the God we have come to worship!

*OPENING HYMN NCH 312 We Love Your Realm, O God

ST. THOMAS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

What National Parks have you visited?

*Congregation Sings:

This land is your land,
This land is my land;
From California to the New York island,
From the redwood forests to the Gulf Stream waters,
This land was made for you and me.

W. Guthie

Children are dismissed to Classrooms as the congregation sings.

SCRIPTURE Proverbs 17:15

Philippians 2:1-8

SERMON Arches: The Fragility of Connection Rev. Liza Arulampalam

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Loving God, through your only-begotten son, Jesus Christ, you modeled for us right-relationship with one-another. By His example, we learned of our kinship with one-another as beloved children of You, God ... Although we sometimes miss the mark trying to live out Your call to love one-another, we find comfort in the truth that through You all things are possible. Help us to be the family you would have us be. In the name of the Loving Parent God, the caring Sibling Christ and the Holy, Uniting Spirit, which surrounds us all, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

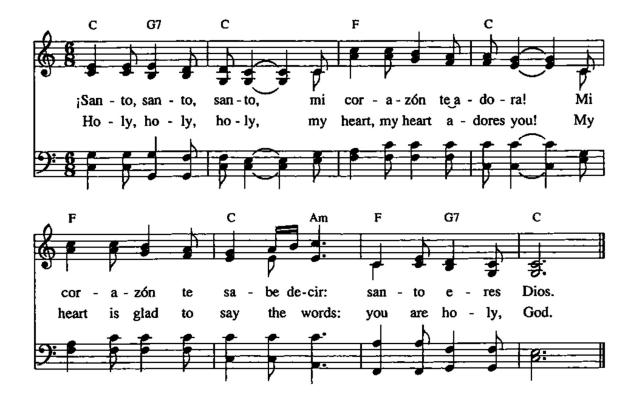
The Lord's Prayer

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Sanctus



Sharing of the Elements

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY What a Wonderful World

L. Armstrong

Terrence French, Sr., Trumpet

*DOXOLOGY Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks, because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say 'I am strong', let the poor say 'I am rich', because of what the Lord has done for us, Give Thanks!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 393 Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

DENNIS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION (Printed Next Page)

PIANO POSTLUDE This Little Light of Mine

Arr. D. Reynolds

David Reynolds, Piano

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

BENEDICTION

From the Chapel of Transfiguration, Grand Teton National Park

Go for the Grandeur of God's Creation.

Go and see the Art of creation all around you.

Go to recall life's Diversity.

Go to see if it is as beautiful in real life as it is in your Imagination.

Go to return to the site of your favorite dreams, and Remember what it is to Marvel.

Go to see nature's Paradox: When circumstances Change, life must Adapt with the unexpected Consequences-and yet Nature Thrives.

Go because you want to cross Borders, to go to a new Place.

Go because it is Home or it is where your Roots are.

Go because you're on a Mission.

Go for the sake of the Journey or the Experience.

Go because you crave Movement.

Go to celebrate a Beginning, a Landmark, or an Ending.

Go to find Connection, then Reconciliation, then Unity.

Go for the Community and the Companionship and the Teamwork, or go for the Solitude and Isolation.

Go and refresh your Spirit. Go for the Sabbath.

Go for all the Time you need to regain Perspective.

Go and start a new Story.

Go to remember a Language without words.

Go and remember your Name, or forget it for a while.

Go to seek the Turbulence and the Chaos and the Wilderness, and then find Restoration and Emancipation and Joy.

Go in search of Preservation and Protection when Darkness looms.

Go and face Adversity, seek Guidance, remember to Trust, and see the Potential for wondrous things.

Go for Reflection, and to see a Vision of what your life could be.

Go to remember the Sustenance and the Foundation of our faith and lives we have in God.

Go and see God Reveal the Signs of divine love all around you.

Go to remember God Nurtures you and expects you in turn to nurture the world we share.

Go and see Paradise, for us to share now and forever.

Go because Life is a Gift from God and we should live every moment as though it is our last.

Go.

And go in Peace. Amen.