



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



**Order of Worship for
July 20, 2025 10:00 am**

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP – JULY 20, 2025
THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Yellowstone National Park: Faithfulness
Cover Art: Painting of Old Faithful by Albert Bierstadt, c. 1881

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

GATHERING MUSIC Shall We Gather At the River

M. Hayes

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Awake, my soul!

People: Awaken to the wonderful creation around us!

Leader: We will give thanks to you, O God, among the peoples and all earth's beings.

People: We will sing praises to you among the nations.

Leader: For your compassion is greater than the heavens.

People: Your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds.

All: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory cover the earth!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*OPENING HYMN NCH 8 Praise to the Living God

DIADEMATA

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

What is your favorite outdoor place?

**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. Guthrie

Children leave for Sunday School Classrooms

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Psalm 117
Mark 1: 1-12

SERMON *Wild and Wonderful Faithfulness*

Rev. Deb Moyer

*HYMN NCH 27 From All That Dwell Below the Skies
Words based on Psalm 117

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity of creation in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ, and in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit! God has abundantly blessed us and called us to be a community that blesses others through the sharing of our love, our talents, and our material possessions. Let us rejoice now in what we have been given and in what is ours to give as we receive our morning offering.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

*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 (*Unison*)

Holy one, whose heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as a sign of our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. AMEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

From the Chapel of the Transfiguration, Grand Teton National Park

One: 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's 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.

All:: **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.

One: 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.

All: **Go in search of Preservation and Protection when Darkness looms.**
 the Potential for wondrous things.
 Go and face Adversity, seek Guidance, remember to Trust, and see
 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.

One: 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.

POSTLUDE I've Got Peace like a River

M. Hayes

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

*Today's liturgy is adapted from "Touch Holiness" and "Bread for the Journey,"
edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi*

***Are you a singer? Do you miss Choir?
Now's your chance to join the summer choir!!!***

ON AUGUST 3:

We will have a volunteer summer choir. All adults as well as old children are welcome to participate. On August 3, Please arrive promptly at 9:15am in the upstairs parlor of the church house. We will work on/rehearse a song to sing that morning for the 10am service.
