



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



**Order of Worship for
July 27, 2025 10:00 am**

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP – JULY 27, 2025
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Photo from Frances Burton

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

GATHERING MUSIC This Little Light of Mine

arr. D. Reynolds

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from the 35th General Synod of the United Church of Christ

One: This land is not your land. This land is not my land

All: This land belongs to God, the Creator who established the skies and the stars and the seas of prairie grass.

This land, acres of prairie, roots sunk deep in the soil, habitat for the birds of the air and the creatures of the fields

This land, now home to diverse people and prairies, farmlands and ranchlands, creatures and species

We gather on this land to sing, to pray, to confess, to commune,
To hear a word, to receive a blessing, to go as a blessing.

Rooted, grounded, anchored for the deep work of love and justice.

This land is not your land. This land is not my land.

This land belongs to God, Creator of all. Let us worship God together.

All praise and glory be!

*OPENING SONG Beautiful Things

Gungor

Verse 1

***All this pain,
I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change
at all?***

Verse 2

***All this earth,
Could all that is lost ever be found
Could a garden come up from this ground
at all?***

Chorus:

***You make beautiful things,
You make beautiful things out of the dust.
You make beautiful things,
You make beautiful things out of us.***

Verse 3

***All around
Hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos life is being found in You
(to Chorus)***

***You make me new, You are making me new
You make me new, You are making me new
(to Chorus)***

***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. Guthrie

Children leave for Sunday School Classrooms

SCRIPTURE Genesis 1:1-5; 2:1-4

SERMON *Acadia National Park: Beginnings*

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSICAL RESPONSE *Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)*

C. Tomlin

Verse 1

***Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
Was blind, but now I see.***

Chorus

***My chains are gone, I've been set free!
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me;
And like a flood, His mercy reigns!
Unending love, Amazing Grace.***

Verse 2

***'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.***

Verse 3

***The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures (to Chorus)***

Verse 4

***The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine;
You are forever mine.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY In Christ Alone

A. Liesching

Verse 1

*In Christ alone, my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace;
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease,
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

Verse. 2

*In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe;
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save;
'Til on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live, I live.*

Verse 3

*There in the ground, His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
Up from the grave He rose again;
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine;
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

Verse 4

*No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny;
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

*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*)

Receive these gifts of our bounty, our abundance, and our excess. Put them to use for others, for brothers and sisters and siblings and all served by Center Church. May this offering be pleasing in your sight, most Holy One. Amen.

*SENDING SONG Ancient of Days

R. Kenoly

*Blessing and Honor, Glory and Power be unto the Ancient of Days
From every nation, All of creation: bow before the Ancient of Days*

*Every tongue in heaven and earth shall declare Your glory
Every knee shall bow at Your throne in worship
You will be exalted, oh God and Your kingdom shall not pass away
Oh, Ancient of Days!*

*Your kingdom shall reign over all the earth
Sing unto the Ancient of Days
For none can compare to Your matchless worth
Sing unto the Ancient of Days*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION (*Printed Next Page*)

SENDING FORTH Ancient of Days (*reprise*)

We thank our Worship Band members Dan Theriault, David Reynolds, Logan Singerman, and Arunan Arulampalam for their leadership and contributions to today's service. Go in Peace!

***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.

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.