



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



Order of Worship for
August 3, 2025 10:00 am

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP – AUGUST 3, 2025
CENTER CHURCH ROAD TRIP: DEATH VALLEY

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PIANO PRELUDE It Is Well

Arr. B. Walters

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 147

One: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving!
Make music upon the harp.
How good it is to celebrate God's presence
and sing praise throughout each day!

All: How good it is to sing praise and give honor to our God!

One: Our God rebuilds the people of earth.
The wandering ones are gathered together,
the brokenhearted are healed,
the hungry are fed,
the prisoners are freed,
the blind are given sight, the lonely are befriended.

All: How good it is to sing praise and give honor to our God!

One: All of nature sings aloud God's goodness—
clouds, rain, grass, creatures great and small.
Our God creates and sustains our world
with his ever-growing, never-ending love.

All: How good it is to sing praise and give honor to our God!

One: Grace and peace be yours in abundance
through the knowledge of God and of Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NCH 43 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

BEECHER

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

What National Parks have you visited?

**Congregation Sings:*

This land is your land,

W. Guthrie

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.

Children are dismissed to Classrooms as the congregation sings.

SCRIPTURE Ezekiel 37:1-12 (*Adapted from The Message and NRSV*)
Romans 8:38-39 (*NRSV*)

SERMON Death Valley: Can these Bones Live?

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

A TIME FOR PRAYER

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord's Prayer

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

One: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at table with two disciples and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

All: **This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.**

Communion Prayer

One: God be with you

All: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sanctus

The musical score for the Sanctus is presented in two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 8/8. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line: C, G7, C, F, C in the first system, and F, C, Am, F, G7, C in the second system. The lyrics are written below the vocal line in two lines: Spanish and English.

System 1:

Chords: C, G7, C, F, C

Spanish: ¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi

English: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

System 2:

Chords: F, C, Am, F, G7, C

Spanish: cor - a - zón te sa - be de-cir: san - to e - res Dios.

English: heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

Telling the Story

Memorial Acclamation

Christ's death, O God, we proclaim.

Christ's resurrection we declare.

Christ's coming we await.

Glory be to you, O God.

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the Gifts

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION The Gift of Love
Center Church Summer Choir

H. Hopson

Closing Prayer (*unison*)

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ, that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ in whose name we rejoice and pray. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Let Us Rejoice
Center Church Summer Choir

C. Ovokaitys

*DOXOLOGY Give Thanks

D. Moen

***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*)**

We offer our gifts to this movement, and we offer ourselves. Not because the Church invited us, but because God did, saying: “These Bones Shall Live.” And, truly, they do. We will follow with our resources, our commitments, and our faith. Amen.

***CLOSING SONG Shine Jesus Shine**

G. Kendrick

Vs. 1

Lord the light of Your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness shining.
Jesus light of the world, shine upon us.
Set us free by the truth You now bring us.
Shine on me, Shine on me!

CHORUS

Shine, Jesus shine,
Fill this land with the Father’s Glory
Blaze, Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow
Flood the nation with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your word,
Lord, and let there be light.

Vs. 2

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance,
By Your blood, I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, Shine on me!
(*To Chorus*)

Vs. 3

As we gaze on Your Kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness,
Ever changing from Glory to Glory,
Nearer here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, Shine on me!
(*To Chorus*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION (*Printed Next Page*)

SENDING FORTH Shine Jesus Shine (*Reprise*)

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.

^{*†}We acknowledge that we, the congregation of Center Church, worship on the land of the Saukiog people, an indigenous tribe that was a part of the Algonquin Confederation. We acknowledge, also, that our buildings stand not just on the site where *named* European inhabitants were buried but also that many *unnamed* enslaved Africans, African-descended and indigenous persons are buried beneath our feet.*

Even as we confess and seek forgiveness, we pay honor and respect to their ancestors and descendants as we commit to building a more inclusive and equitable community for all.

(*currently estimated over 500) For more information about the unnamed enslaved Africans, African-descended and indigenous persons buried in the Ancient Burying Ground, please visit

<https://www.africannativeburialset.org/list-of-people-profiles/>

Center Church News & Announcements

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THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD

A member of the United Church of Christ (UCC)

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please schedule a time by
sending her an email at pastor@cchartford.org***

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Would you like to learn more about Center Church? Email us at info@cchartford.org