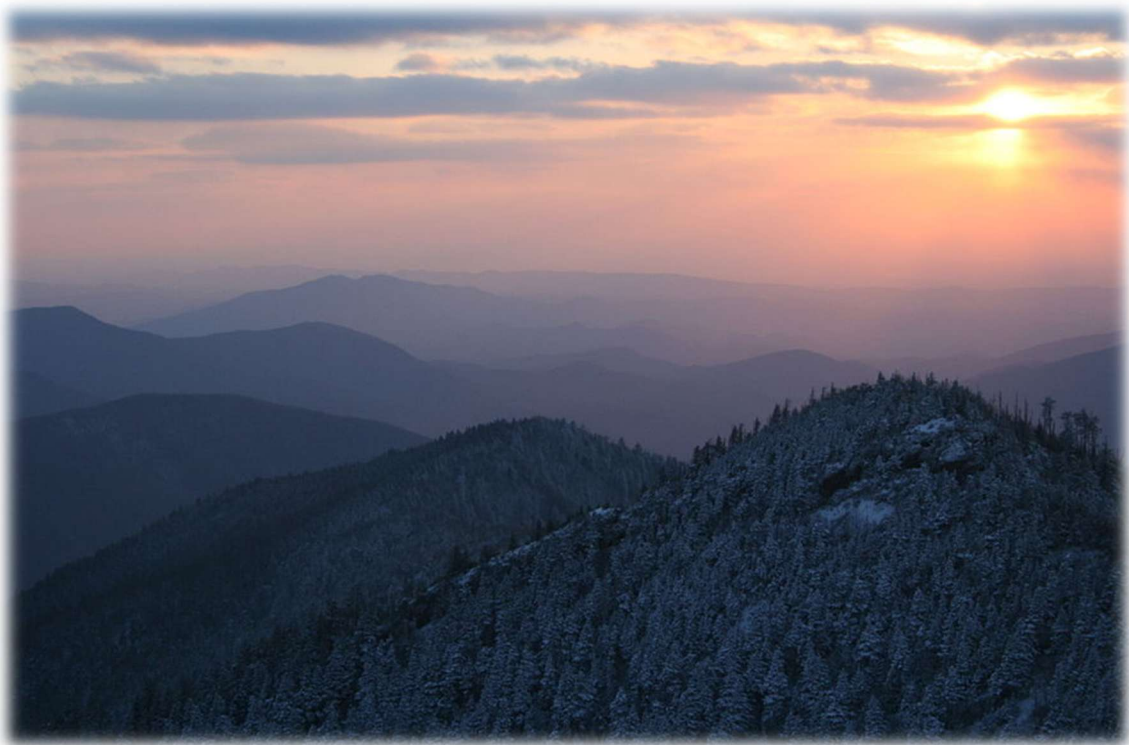




*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ*



Order of Worship for
August 10, 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
Center Church Road Trip: Smokey Mountain National Park

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

PIANO PRELUDE Quiet Reflection

Edward Broughton

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather to worship God,

All: Who creates us and loves us;

Who gifts us with diversity and makes us for community;

Who gives Jesus Christ to show us how to live;

Who inspires children, youth, young adults, and people of all ages,

To seek justice, share power,

and live together in love and equality;

Who invites us to join the struggle for wholeness and wellbeing for all,

and whose presence, grace, and love

sustain us in our living.

We gather to worship God.

To God be all glory, honor, and praise!

*OPENING HYMN NCH 12 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Ellacombe

*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

SCRIPTURE Genesis 11:1-9
 Psalm 104:10-15

SERMON The Smokey Mountains & Why Homogony is Boring
 Rev. Liza Arulampalam

*HYMN NCH 395 In Christ There is No East or West ST. PETER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart MORECAMBE, arr. D. Paxton

*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God, above, you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost! Amen.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 575 O For A World AZMON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION (responsive, printed next page)

PIANO POSTLUDE Joyous Toccata Lani Smith

Thank you to everyone who participated in today's worship and a special thank you to Norman McFarlane for sharing his musical gifts with us today. Go in Peace!

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.

^{*†}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

Subscribe to our E-News newsletter for up-to-date news and happenings at Center Church:

<https://centerchurchhartford.org/> <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/OzymYij/CenterChurch>

And, don't forget to follow us on FB!



THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD

A member of the United Church of Christ (UCC)

CENTER CHURCH, 60 Gold Street, Hartford, CT 06103

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The office is closed on Friday

Library Hours by Appointment

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Senior Pastor: The Rev. Liza Arulampalam (ext. 202)

Minister for Justice & Faith Formation: The Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst (ext. 209)

*If you would like to meet with Pastor Liza, please
schedule a time by
sending her an email at pastor@cchartford.org*

Director of Music/Organist: Robert F. Gilbert (ext. 204)

Church Office Administrator: Steven Lewis (ext. 200)

Bookkeeper: Brenda Russell (ext. 201)

Sextons: Thomas St. Amant & Gilberto Mercado

Outreach Coordinator: Carrie Howe (ext. 205)

Nursery Care: Tina Franklin

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