



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



Order of Worship for
August 17, 2025 10:00 am

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP – AUGUST 17, 2025
THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Center Church Road Trip: Big Bend National Park
Photo courtesy of Jane Macomber

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

PIANO PRELUDE Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

W. Bradbury

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from the United Methodist Committee on Relief

Leader: We are a community of faith that has been created by the love of God.

People: We are the people who have been set free by forgiveness in Jesus Christ, and are, therefore, a people called to reach out to the sojourners in our midst and in other lands, people whose lives cry out for the warm embrace of fellowship.

Leader: We have come not to exalt our own goodness, but to praise the holiness of God.

People: We have come not to boast of what we have done, but to proclaim the redeeming work of Jesus Christ by extending our hands.

All: With all our being, we will praise God and tell of God's goodness in our acts of kindness and love towards the "least" among us in our times.

*OPENING HYMN NCH 488 Be Still My Soul

FINLANDIA

*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 Luke 10: 25-37

SERMON Big Bend & Borders

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSICAL RESPONSE *Holy Ground*

C. Beatty and G. Davis

*This is Holy Ground, we're standing on Holy Ground,
for our God is here and where God is is holy (2X)*

*These are holy hands, God's given us holy hands,
God works through these hands and so these hands are holy (2X)*

*We are standing on holy ground, And I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now; We are standing in God's presence on Holy Ground.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY How Great Thou Art

arr. M. Hayes

Kate Robinson & Dan Theriault, duet

*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*)

O Lord, open our eyes that we may see the needs of our siblings across borders. Show us where love, hope and faith are needed. Let us not be afraid to protect the weak because of the anger of the strong or to defend the poor because of the power of the rich. Sustain us so that in these coming days we may be able to do some work of peace for you. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 423 Great is Your Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION (responsive, printed next page)

PIANO POSTLUDE I've Got the Joy

P. Choplin

Thank you to everyone who participated in today's worship. Go in Peace!

***Stay after worship for a special General Synod 35 sharing session
with Pastor Liza and Steven Lewis!***



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.