



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



Order of Worship for
August 24, 2025 10:00 am

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP – AUGUST 24, 2025
THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Center Church Road Trip: Shenandoah National Park

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE Allegro (from Concerto #5 in D)

F. Seitz

Charlotte McCoy, violin

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from the United Methodist Committee on Relief

Leader: Look down from your holy dwelling, O God, and bless your people.

People: We gather with grateful hearts, for the Lord has provided richly for us.

Leader: The early church shared all things in common,
and there was not a needy person among them.

People: We come seeking that same spirit of unity, generosity, and love.

Leader: As the land yields its harvest, may our lives yield compassion, justice, and joy.

People: Let us worship the God who calls us to live as one heart and one soul.

**All: We open our hearts, our hands, and our lives to the presence
and power of the Living God.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*OPENING HYMN NCH 395 In Christ There Is No East or West

ST. PETER

*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 Deuteronomy 26:15
 Acts of the Apostles 4:32–35

SERMON Living Together: God's Vision for Home and Community
 Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

MUSICAL RESPONSE NCH 393 Blest Be the Tie That Binds DENNIS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY I'll Fly Away A. Brumley
 Charlotte McCoy, violin

*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*)

**Holy and generous God,
We bring these gifts as signs of our gratitude and commitment.
May they be used to heal, to serve, and to unite.
Help us to live as one heart and one soul, sharing all things with compassion and grace.
Bless these offerings and our lives, that they may bear fruit for your kingdom.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 494 They Will Know We Are Christians

ST. BRENDAN'S

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Leader: May the God who looks down from the heavens and blesses us with peace

People: empower us to live in generosity and unity.

Leader: As the early church shared all things in common,

People: may we be one in heart and soul, caring for those in need.

Leader: Go forth in the grace that binds us together,

People: and bear witness to God's abundant love in all you do.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE Rondo (from Concerto #5 in D)

F. Seitz

Charlotte McCoy, violin

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