



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

**SEEKING  
THE  
HART  
OF  
GOD**



**FOR A  
CITY  
WHERE  
ALL CAN  
THRIVE**

**Order of Worship for**

**September 21, 2025**

**10:30 am**

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP – SEPTEMBER 21, 2025  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE      Elevation (in F Major)      Félix-Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)  
*Norman McFarlane, organist*

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP  
*Based on Psalm 130*

One: Healing God, we come together in our brokenness,  
to call to you in your mercy, to make us whole again.

**All: Wholeness-giving God, listen to our prayers, we pray.**

One: Restoring God, we gather to worship you, even as  
we hopefully seek to be renewed and restored again.

**All: God, our Quiet-Centre, listen to our prayers this day.**

One: Foundational God, we come to praise and thank you!  
In the depths of your Holy Being we find peace and rest.

**All: God – our Beginning and our End, we hope always in you. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN NCH 304 All Hail the Power of Jesus's Name

CORONATION

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today is Claire Woodbridge MacKenzie, daughter of Graeme and Emily MacKenzie.*

### Introduction to Baptism

### Affirmations of the Family

### Congregational Assent

Pastor: In baptism, we commit ourselves to the nurture of this child.  
Church, are you ready to dedicate yourselves to Claire?

**Community: We are prepared. We dedicate our minds and hearts to this child and to their parents.**

Pastor: Will you strive to love and cherish them in times of struggle as well as gladness?

**Community: We will love and cherish Claire always.**

Leader: We acknowledge the divine spark within each child.

**Community: May we be worthy guardians of this young life.  
May we build a community in which Claire will grow old  
surrounded by beauty, embraced by love, and cradled in the arms of  
peace.**

### Act of Baptism

### Prayer after Baptism

**God of wonder and grace, we thank you for your love revealed here this day as this community, these parents, and this child come together making covenant promises. We pray that this community will have the grace to uphold the promises made here this day, providing a safe shelter of your love in which this child may grow and play. We pray that these parents may continue to feel the sweet wonder of your presence so transparent here today. We pray that this child will bask in your love as she makes her own journey through this life. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRESENTATION NCH 325 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

STUTTGART

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Ms. Ebony McMillan

*Children are dismissed to classrooms as the congregation sings...*

Caribbean Melody

***Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah,  
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah,  
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!***

SCRIPTURE      John 5: 1-15

SERMON          Thrive, Week 3: Do you want to be Made Well?

*The Rev. Liza Arulampalam*

MUSICAL RESPONSE

*Oceans (Where Feet may Fail)*  
Arunan Arulampalam

Hillsong

*And I will call upon Your Name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY      A Jubilant Song

A. Pote

*The Center Church Choir*

\*DOXOLOGY NCH 780

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

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)**

**In the offering of our gifts,  
as well as the living of our days,  
may we not grow weary of doing what is right,  
but commit to speaking up for the voiceless,  
healing the broken,  
feeding the hungry,  
and all those mercies  
which are such a part of your heart  
and hopes for all your children.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN NCH 553 There is a Balm in Gilead**

## BALM IN GILEAD

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION

## CHORAL BENEDICTION

[illegible]

### A. Reinhard (1831-1912)

*Thank you to everyone who participated in worship; Go in peace!*