



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

**CONNECTICUT
FREEDOM TRAIL
SUNDAY**



September 28, 2025

10:30 AM

Order of Worship for
September 28, 2025 10:30 am

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP – SEPTEMBER 28, 2025
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - FREEDOM TRAIL SUNDAY

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE Largo

A. Vivaldi

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, people of God, and hear the voice of the One who calls.

All: We come, like Abram and Sarai, ready to journey into God's promise.

One: The Lord has said, "I will bless you, and through you, all families of the earth shall be blessed."

All: We come in faith, trusting in the God who leads us still.

One: Come, let us worship the God of covenant and promise.

All: We will worship the One who calls us, guides us, and makes us a blessing.

*OPENING HYMN NCH 459 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. William Yoo

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

Caribbean Melody

***Halle, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Halle, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Halle, Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!***

SCRIPTURE Genesis 12: 1-7
Romans 4: 1-3

Mr. Andre Keitt

SERMON Origin Stories about Faith, Freedom, and the God Who Calls

The Rev. Dr. William Yoo

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NCH 570 We Shall Overcome

WE SHALL OVERCOME

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY At The River
Stewart Battle, soloist

A. Copeland

*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

Gracious God, You called Abram long ago, and You still call us today. Take these gifts, signs of our faith and trust, and use them to bless others as You have blessed us. May this offering be a testimony of our covenant with You—to live by faith, to walk in hope, and to act in love. Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 473 Blessed Assurance

ASSURANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. William Yoo

ORGAN POSTLUDE Rigaudon

A. Campra

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

Please join us this afternoon at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace where Rev. Dr. Yoo will give a lecture on his latest book Reckoning with History: Settler Colonialism, Slavery and the making of American Christianity. The event will be simulcast on HIU's online presence and later posted on the Boyajian Lecture Series Facebook page.

What: **How to Tell the Story of Settler Colonialism, Slavery, and Christianity in Connecticut, presented by the Rev. Dr. William Yoo**

Where: **Hartford International University for Religion and Peace
77 Sherman Street, Hartford CT**

When: **September 28, 2025 at 3 PM**

There will be a book signing and meet and greet with Dr. Yoo before the lecture and catered refreshments after.