



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



Order of Worship for

November 9, 2025 10:30 am

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP – NOVEMBER 9, 2025
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE Andante

L. Boellman

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT^{*†}

CHORAL INTROIT Spirit of the Living God
Warburton Choral Interns

D. Iverson

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When the world trembles and the future feels uncertain,

Many: We come to remember that God's Spirit still abides with us.

One: When strength fades and fear grows,

Many: We dare to believe in God's promise of peace and restoration.

One: The Lord of hosts declares, "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than the former."

Many: Together, we will hold on to faith and worship the God who makes all things new.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy and steadfast God,

You are our refuge in times of trouble and our strength when courage wanes. As we gather in Your presence, renew our hearts and quiet our anxious minds. Teach us to trust Your promises, even when we cannot see the way forward. By Your Spirit, dwell among us, restore our hope, and make our worship a sanctuary of faith and peace. **Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN NCH 407 How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

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

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*God of wisdom and light:
Send Your Spirit to open our hearts and minds to Your Word.
When we are confused or afraid, let Your truth steady us.
When doubt overshadows our faith, let Your voice call us back to trust.
Speak now through Scripture that we might hear Your promise of peace and believe again in
Your redeeming power. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE Haggai 2: 1-9
 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17

SERMON “Holding on to Faith: Daring to Believe God in the Face of Great Uncertainty”
 The Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

HYMN OF RESPONSE (*Insert, next page*) Here I Am, Lord

D. Schutte

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Here I Am, Lord

*Unison*

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,

I have heard my peo-ple cry.
I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
I will tend the poor and lame.

Musical notation for the second system, featuring a treble staff with lyrics and a corresponding bass staff.

All who dwell in deep - est sin
I have wept for love of them,
I will set a feast for them,

my hand will save.
they turn a - way.
my hand will save.

Musical notation for the third system, featuring a treble staff with lyrics and a corresponding bass staff.

I who made the stars of night,
I will break their hearts of stone,
Fin-est bread I will pro- vide

I will make their dark-ness bright.
give them hearts for love a - lone.
till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Musical notation for the fourth system, featuring a treble staff with lyrics and a corresponding bass staff.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Harmony

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the

night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will

hold your peo-ple in my heart. heart.
 heart, in my heart.
 heart,in my heart.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Distant Land

John Rutter

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)

Faithful God,

We bring these gifts to You in gratitude and trust.

**Use them—and us—to rebuild what is broken, restore what is lost, and reveal Your glory in
this generation.**

**Strengthen our faith as we give, that we may become signs of Your steadfast love and peace.
Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 423 Great is Your Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Toccata

L. Boellman

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