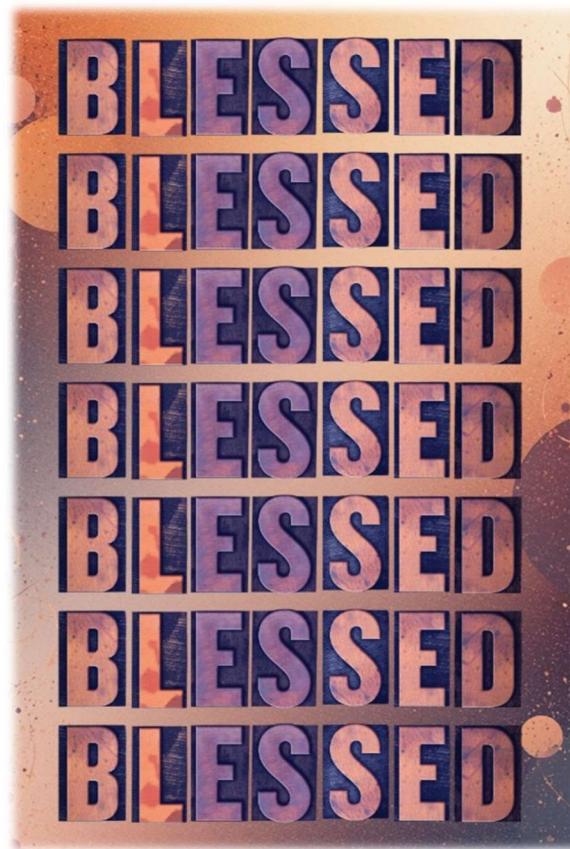




An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Order of Worship for February 1, 2026 10:30 am

Welcome to Worship at Center Church!

We are delighted that you are with us today.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
COMMUNION SUNDAY

*Please rise in body or spirit.

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE *Blessed Are the Faithful Souls*

J. Brahms

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*†

CALL TO WORSHIP

Voice 1: Blessed are you poor who have no work or too little income.

Voice 2: *God has promised: yours is the kingdom of heaven.*

Voice 1: Blessed are you who are hungry now.

Voice 2: *God has promised: you shall be filled.*

Voice 1: Blessed are you who weep over unpaid bills, the loss of a job, or your children's lack of opportunities.

Voice 2: *God has promised: you shall be comforted, you shall laugh.*

Voice 1: Blessed are you who are merciful.

Voice 2: *God has promised: you shall receive mercy.*

Voice 1: Blessed are you who hunger and thirst for justice.

Voice 2: *God has promised: you shall be filled.*

All: The time is surely coming when God's justice and peace shall reign throughout the land. Thanks be to God.

*OPENING NCH 436 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

The congregation sings as the children head to their classrooms.

Ms. Ebony McMillan

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-jah (x3)
Halle-lu-jah, Halle-lu-jah!

Carribean Melody

SCRIPTURE Micah 6: 1-8
 Matthew 5: 1-12

SERMON Blessed are the Stressed *Rev. Liza Arulampalam*

*MUSICAL RESPONSE *I Wander as I Wander* Appalachian Carol, arr. J. J. Niles

*Ian Duncan, Warburton Music Scholar
& Center Church Choir*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

No matter who you are, no matter where you are on the journey, you are welcome at this table. This feast is prepared for you and for everyone who needs the presence of Jesus.

Communion Prayer

One: God in Christ, in a world that applauds arrogance, you call us to be meek.

All: In a world that runs from grief you call us to find comfort in you.

One: In a world that rewards competition, you call us to kindness.

All: In a world that teaches aggression, you call us to be peacemakers.

One: In a world that revels in indulgence, you call us to be pure in heart and promise that we will see you.

Therefore, with all of creation we sing your praise:

Sanctus (NCH 793)

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Great Day

Martin V. Curtis

Center Church Choir

*DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts,
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts,
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Unison*)

Gracious God, we give you these gifts as symbols of our lives. Receive them with love, bless them with grace, and use them according to your will. Send us into the world to stand with those who suffer, to bless those who are mourning, to work for peace and justice, to endure hatred for the sake of your will, in the name and the Spirit of Christ. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 451 Be Now My Vision

SLANE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

By the Rev. Anna Blaedel

One: blessed are you who are raging.

All: **blessed are you who are mourning.**

blessed are you who feel numb.

blessed are you who feel sick. and tired. and sick and tired.

blessed are you who refuse to turn away.

blessed are you who need to turn away.

blessed are you who keep breathing deep.

blessed are you who are tending to your own needs.

blessed are you who are tending to the needs of another.

blessed are you who have been calling.

blessed are you who have been organizing.

blessed are you who have been testifying.

blessed are you who have been hearing.

blessed are you who have been resisting.

blessed are you who feel broken open beyond repair.

blessed are you who are raw beyond words.

blessed are you who are working hotlines and crisis care centers and bearing witness to the forces of violence and trauma unleashed and unloosed.

blessed are you who are marching.

blessed are you who are weeping.

blessed are you who know deep in your bones that you are good. and beautiful. and beloved. and sacred. and worthy. and believed. and held. and capable of healing beyond your wildest imagination.

blessed are you who remind others they are good. and beautiful. and beloved. and sacred. and worthy. and believed. and held. and capable of healing beyond their wildest imagination.

blessed are we when we stay tender.

blessed are we when we stay fierce.

blessed are we when we dare to imagine repair, and transformation.

blessed are we when we labor together to make it so.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE Fantasy in G

J. S. Bach

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