



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



Order of Worship for
February 15, 2026 10:30 am

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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY - TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 15, 2026 – ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Cover Art: The Transfiguration of Jesus, 1967
from Biblia Sacra, Salvador Dali (1904-1989)*

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PRELUDE Give Me Jesus

Spiritual, arr. by Douglas E. Wagner

Norman McFarlane, pianist

INTROIT As God the Lord of Israel Liveth (from *Elijah*)

F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Stewart Battle, soloist

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*†

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain?

All: The rulers take counsel together, but God has set a king on Zion!

We did not follow cleverly devised myths,

But we were eyewitnesses of Christ's majesty.

We heard the voice from heaven declaring:

This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased;

We have the prophetic message more fully confirmed,

A lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns.

In these confusing and dangerous times, we gather to worship.

Happy are all who take refuge in the Lord. Let us walk by the light of Christ!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*OPENING HYMN NCH 182 We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

HYFRYDOL

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Ms. Ioanna Kyrkou

The congregation sings as the children head to their classrooms.

***Halle-, Halle-, Hallelujah, (3x)
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!***

Caribbean Melody

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, your prophetic message is more fully confirmed in Jesus Christ.

*As we prepare to hear your Word proclaimed, open our ears to hear, our minds to understand,
and our hearts to receive.*

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE Psalm 2
2 Peter 1: 16-21

SERMON Seeing Clearly in the Darkness: Recognizing Jesus's Example
When Living in Dangerous and Confusing Times

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

MUSICAL RESPONSE *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* African American Spiritual
Stewart Battle, soloist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Beautiful Savior ST ELIZABETH, arr. S. Metzger
Norman McFarlane, organist

ST. ELIZABETH appears to be an eighteenth-century tune from the Glaz area of Silesia (Modern-day Poland, Czech Republic and Germany). It has always been associated with the 16th century text Schönster Herr Jesu (Fairest Lord Jesus). No factual data exists for the legend that this text and tune date back to the twelfth-century crusades, although those apocryphal stories explain one of the names by which this tune is known, namely, CRUSADER'S HYMN. After Franz Liszt used the tune for a crusaders' march in his oratorio The Legend of St. Elizabeth (1862), the tune has become known as ST. ELIZABETH.

*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 offer these gifts as an act of faith and gratitude.
Bless these offerings and use them to bring light into darkness,
justice into places of oppression,
and *Shalom* into places of chaos.
We dedicate not only our money, but ourselves to the work of your kingdom.
In Jesus's name, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 290 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

MORECAMBE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

One: Go forth from this place, beloved people of God.

One: Though the nations rage and rulers conspire,

All: God alone is sovereign.

Though darkness seems thick and times confusing,

We have been given a lamp to light our way.

Until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

We will walk by the light of Christ.

Stand with the disinherited. Speak truth to power. Work for justice with love in your hearts.

We go to be instruments of healing in the world.

One: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: Amen!

BENEDICTION Amen, Amen

African American Spiritual
arr. N. T. Johnson, 1988

ORGAN POSTLUDE *Allegro Energico*
from Op. 20, No. 8

Christian Cappelen (1845-1916)
arr. by Mark L. Williams

Norman McFarlane, organist

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

