



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



**Order of Worship for**  
**March 22, 2026      10:30 am**

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT - AGAIN & AGAIN, WE ARE REFORMED**

**MARCH 22, 2026 – ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*Cover Art: "Written on our Hearts," by Lauren Wright Pittman*

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PRELUDE Chorale Prelude "Lass mich Dein sein und bleiben"  
*Norman McFarlane, organist*

N. Strungk (1640-1700)

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT\*†

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Every week is a new week,  
Another chance to say:

**All: "Here I am. Use me."**

One: Every day is a new day,  
Another chance to say:

**All: "Thank you for yesterday. Thank you for tomorrow."**

One: Every hour is a new hour,  
Another chance to say,

**All: "Again and again, make me new."**

One: We do not come to this place to stay the same.

**All: We come to this place to be changed.**

One: So let us worship holy God,

Who created yesterday, will create tomorrow, and even now is creating something new.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN NCH 224 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

PASSING OF THE PEACE

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

*Ms Ebony McMillan*

*Praise God, praise God, all you little children,*

*God is love, God is love;*

*Praise God, praise God, all you little children,*

*God is love, God is love.*

*C. Bonner*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God,  
Scripture tells us that your word is written on our hearts,  
But we struggle to hear it.  
Is it possible that we have covered up your words with our own self-narratives?  
Is it possible that we have erased your truth to write our own?  
Is it possible that we have forgotten your words entirely?  
Take us back to the beginning.  
Remove the self-talk that distracts.  
Clear away the cobwebs of doubt.  
Show us how to look inside ourselves for your truth,  
And then write on our hearts once more.  
We are listening.  
We are hopeful.  
We are here.  
Speak now.  
Amen.

SCRIPTURE        Jeremiah 31: 31-34  
                      John 12: 20-33

SERMON            Again and Again, We are Reformed

*Rev. Liza Arulampalam*

MUSICAL RESPONSE    God, My Father, Why hast Thou Foresaken Me?  
                                  From *Seven Last Words of Christ*  
                                  *Stewart Battle, soloist*

T. Dubois

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God,  
We want to see you.  
We want to be known as the people who looked for Jesus;  
But not only that,  
We want to be people who have your covenant written on our hearts.  
Why do we feel so far away from that at times?  
What went wrong?  
Where did we lose our way?  
Could you, would you, once again,  
Write on our fragile hearts?  
We would be so grateful.  
Amen.**

### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Friends, despite our wonderings,  
Despite our distractions,  
Despite wrong turns time and time again,  
We are known and loved by God.  
Like a lighthouse keeper by the sea,  
God will never stop waving us home.  
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:  
**All: Our fragile bones are held by the Great Creator.  
Our fragile hearts are loved by the Great Creator.  
Our tender spirits are forgiven by the Great Creator.**

One: Today is a new day.  
**All: Again and again, we are forgiven;  
Again and again, we are reformed.  
Thanks be to God.  
Amen.**

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Give Me Jesus

arr. B. Harlan

*Center Church Choir*

\*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDRETH

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

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe that flowers need the rain.  
We believe that humans need community.  
We believe that bodies need rest.  
We believe that hearts need connection.  
We believe that mornings need sunrise.  
We believe that seasons need change.  
We believe that grief needs space.  
We believe that change needs time.  
We believe that love needs security.  
We believe that pain needs art.  
We believe that joy needs company.  
We believe that our spirits need God.  
Again and again, our spirits need God.  
Fortunately for us, we trust that  
God is here.  
God is at work in our lives.  
God is a lighthouse keeper that never gives up.  
Thanks be to God.  
Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN NCH 197 Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

NEAR THE CROSS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

*As you leave this space,  
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.  
May your arms hold those in need.  
May your feet walk toward justice.  
May your heart trust its worth.  
May your soul dance in God's grace.  
And may this be your rhythm—  
Again and again and again,  
Until God's promised day.  
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,  
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.  
Amen.*

CHORAL BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE Tu Es Petra (You are the Rock)

H. Mulet

*Thank you to everyone who participated in worship today! Go forth in Peace, beloved of God.*

*Please stay for the 393<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting  
of the First Church of Christ in Hartford, TODAY!  
Immediately following worship.*