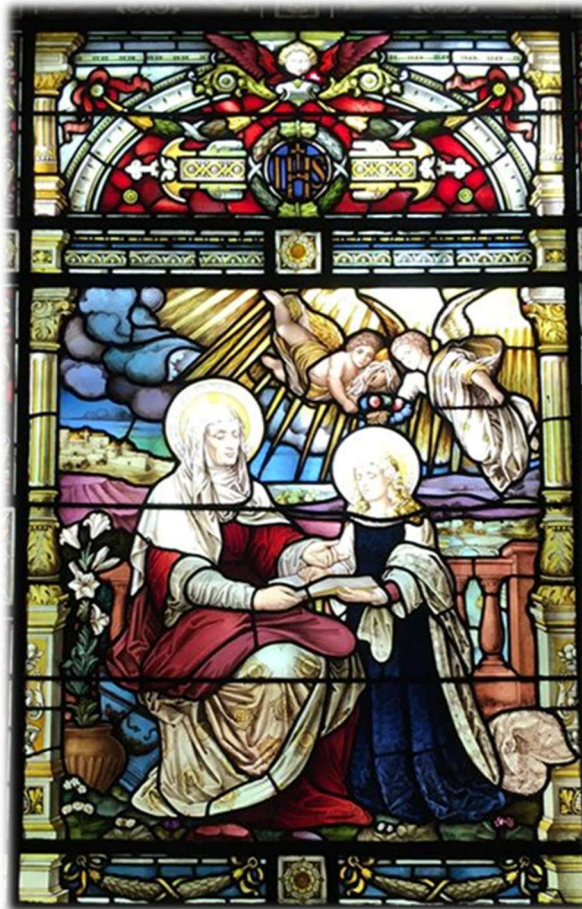




*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ*



Order of Worship for
April 12, 2026 10:30 am

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
GOSPEL IN GLASS: "MARY & ANNE"
APRIL 12, 2026 – ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE *Maestoso*

H. Purcell

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*†

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the quiet dawn, before the world awoke,
Mary came bearing grief, love, and memory.

People: **She carried sorrow to the tomb,
But found the stone rolled away.**

Leader: The one she bore, the one she raised,
The one she watched suffer—was not there.

People: **Christ is risen! Hope has broken through despair!**

Leader: Where there was death, God has spoken life.
Where there were tears, joy has begun to rise.

People: **Like Mary, we come seeking—
And find the living Christ among us.**

Leader: Do not cling to what was,
For God is doing a new thing.

People: **We turn from mourning to dancing,
From silence to proclamation!**

Leader: Go and tell the good news, just as Mary did:
The grave is empty. Love has won.

All: **Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*OPENING NCH 230 Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain

ST. KEVIN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: Scripture tells us there was a lot of shouting on your crucifixion day.
The crowds were yelling:

All: "Take him away!"

One: The assembly, when given a choice, demanded:

All: "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

"This man claims he is King of the Jews!"

One: And Mary cried out in grief.

All: "Oh, God. Oh, God. My only boy."

One: And you cried out in pain,

All: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

One: It seems there was a lot of shouting.

All: 2,000 years later, and we're still shouting,

One: And the world is still filled with violence.

The air feels so full of words,

All: so full of hurt.

One: I imagine you know the feeling.

One: Lord Christ, as we meditate on your passion, may we remember also those for whom you died. Hear our prayers this day: for all those who mourn the death of one they loved; for those who hold in their arms the body of a loved one; for those who feel their lives broken and shattered; for those who cannot see their life beyond this death; for those who cannot grieve or weep. We pray also for all those we name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts

All: We gather up these prayers in the name of the One born of Mary and borne by her at the end, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying,...(*The Lord's Prayer*)

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

The Lord is my Light
Center Church Choir

C. Courtney

*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 our lives, symbolized in our gifts. Receive them with love, bless them with grace and use them according to your will. Lead us always into the depths of your love and into the world to serve, in the name and Spirit of Christ. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 245 The Day of Resurrection

LANCASHIRE

CELEBRATING CENTER CHURCH'S UNSUNG HEROS

The Outreach Team

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE Allegro Maestoso (from *Water Music*)

G. F. Handel

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