



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



Order of Worship for
April 19, 2026 10:30 am

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 19, 2026 – ORDER OF WORSHIP

Cover art: *The Pilgrims at Emmaus, 1905; Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859–1937)*

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE Allegro (From *Music for the Royal Fireworks*)

G. F. Handel

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*†

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come this day as travelers on a road, hearts heavy, questions unanswered, not always sure where the journey leads.

But, the Risen Christ draws near and walks beside us.

Many: Stay with us, Lord. The day is far spent, and we need your presence.

One: He opens to us the scriptures, that our hearts may burn within us.

Many: Open our eyes to recognize you — in the Word, at the table, in one another.

One: We gather to worship the living God, who hears our cry and does not turn away.

**Many: We love the Lord, for he has heard our voice and our supplications.
Come, let us worship!**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Living God, as You drew near to those two disciples on the Emmaus road — walking with them in their confusion, speaking life into their despair — draw near to us now. Come to us, Risen Christ. Open the scriptures to us. Set our hearts alight, and let us know ourselves to be in Your presence. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NCH 420 We Praise You, O God

KRESMER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Clap Your Hands

N. Roberts

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*)

Lord, You have given us everything. Receive these gifts, and use them wherever bread is needed and the Word has yet to be heard. Receive us as well — our time, our hearts, our days. May our giving be an extension of the table You set for us. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 251 I Greet You, Sure Redeemer

TOULON

BENEDICTION

One: Go now — as those whose eyes have been opened, whose hearts have burned with the living Word, who have called upon the name of the Lord and been heard.

The Risen Christ who walked to Emmaus walks with you still. You will not walk alone. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit go with you this day and all your days. **Amen.**

People: Thanks be to God!

CHORAL BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE Toccata (from *Symphony V*)

C. M. Widor

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