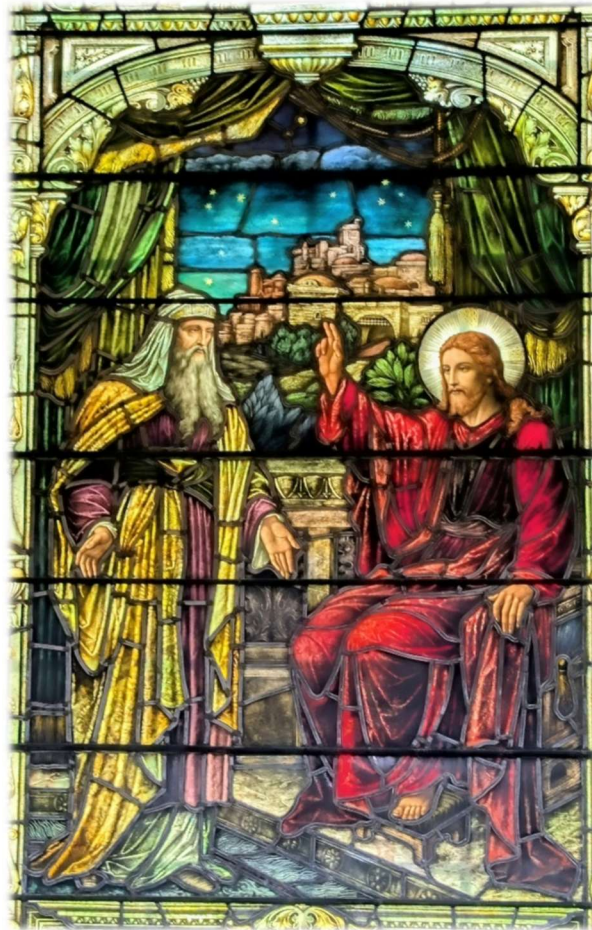




*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ*



Order of Worship for

May 17, 2026

10:30 am

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
GOSPEL IN GLASS, WEEK 5 – JESUS & NICODEMUS
MAY 17, 2026 – ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE My Faith Looks Up To Thee

D. Bish

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*†

CALL TO WORSHIP

From Spacious Faith Worship Resources

One: Like Nicodemus, we come with some hesitation:

Many: **There are so many other places we could be.**

Like Nicodemus, we come with wonder:

Amazed at all we have seen God do.

Like Nicodemus, we come with questions:

So very many questions.

One: Like Nicodemus, we come to learn from Jesus:

Many: **We bring our hesitation, our wonder, and our questions.**

We bring all of who we are into this sacred space of worship,

Trusting in the grace of our God who so deeply loves the world.

*HYMN NCH 387 O Christ, the Great Foundation

AURELIA

*PASSING OF PEACE

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Receiving the sacrament of Baptism today is Aria Rashae Parkes, born December 30, 2025, child of Stacia and DeShaun Parkes. Standing today as a Godparent and witness is Aenecia Parkes.

Introduction to Baptism

Affirmations of the Family

Congregational Assent

Leader: In baptism, we commit ourselves to the nurture of this child. Church, are you ready to dedicate yourselves to Aria?

Community: **We are prepared. We dedicate our minds and hearts to this child and to their parents.**

Leader: Will you strive to love and cherish them in times of struggle as well as gladness?

Community: **We will love and cherish them always.**

Leader: We acknowledge the divine spark within each child.

Community: **May we be worth guardians of this young life. May we build a community in which Aria will grow old surrounded by beauty, embraced by love, and cradled in the arms of peace.**

The Act of Baptism

Unison Prayer of Dedication

God of wonder and grace, we thank you for Your love revealed here this day as this community, these parents, and this child come together making covenant promises. We pray that this community will have the grace to uphold the promises made here this day, providing a safe shelter of your love in which this child may grow and play. We pray that these parents may continue to feel the sweet wonder of Your presence so transparent here today. We pray that Aria will bask in Your love as she makes her own journey through this life. Amen.

BAPTISMAL HYMN NCH 325 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

STUTTGART



ARIA RASHAE PARKES

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism Today

Aria was born December 30, 2025

Aria is the child of Stacia and DeShaun Parkes

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

The congregation sings as the children head to their classrooms.

Rev. Andrea Phillips

“Welcome”

M. Miller & L. Zelman

***Singing welcome, welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome, the love of God to share
'cause all of us are welcome here,
all are welcome in this place.***

SCRIPTURE John 3: 1-21

SERMON Gospel in Glass, Week 5: *Jesus & Nicodemus* Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSICAL RESPONSE Deep Waters P. Choplin

*Go to deep waters, deep waters,
Where only faith will let you go.
Go out to deep waters, deep waters,
Harvests of faith will overflow.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Here I am, Lord D. Schutte
Mica Guzman, soloist

*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

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 543 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life GERMANY
(Verses 1, 3, 4, 6)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Carillon-Sortie H. Mulet

Thank you to everyone who participated in worship today, Go in Peace!