



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



Order of Worship for
June 7, 2026 10:00 am

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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ROOTED: HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY CHURCH
WEEK 2: BIBLE CENTEREDNESS
JUNE 7, 2026 – ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PRELUDE Thy Word is a Lamp to my Feet

M. W. Smith

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*†

Please remember to take a prayer card and write down and prayers you would like to share with the congregation today. The cards will be collected and re-distributed during today's service.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

Leader: We gather today not in our own wisdom,
but in the light of a Word greater than ourselves.

People: *Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.*

When the world offers us a thousand voices all speaking at once
Speak to us, Lord. We are listening.

When confusion surrounds us and we do not know the way forward
Your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

The word of God is alive and active. It is not a relic of the past
It is living, it is breathing, it is speaking to us today.

It reaches into the places we have hidden, names what we carry in secret, and
it offers what we have been searching for

Together: *We open our hearts to receive it*

*HYMN NCH 522 I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY

*PASSING OF PEACE

The children are dismissed to their classrooms as the congregation sings.

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah,
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah,
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Traditional Caribbean Melody

SCRIPTURE Psalm 119: 103-105
Hebrews 4: 12-13

SERMON The B I B L E: Yes, that's the book for me!

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

SUNG RESPONSE The B I B L E

Traditional

*The B I B L E, yes that's the book for me.
I stand alone on the word of God, the B I B L E !
The B I B L E, yes that's the book for me.
I'll read and pray and always say, the B I B L E !
The B I B L E, yes that's the book for me.
I stand alone on the word of God, the B I B L E !*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Today's communion liturgy is from Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living,
edited by Rev. Mary Luti.*

Invitation to the Table

Giving God Thanks and Praise

We give thanks to you, O God,
For drawing us close,
For feeding our bodies,
For nurturing our spirits,
For loving us exactly as we are.

We carry within us memories
Of rejection and loneliness,
Shame and self-loathing, guilt and fear.
And so we give thanks that at your table
We embody a different message:

We are beloved.
We are enough.
We are worthy.

We feast together with gratitude,
Hungry to build a world where every body is honored,
Where every bruised and broken spirit is healed,
Where everyone is invited to receive
The gift of unconditional love.

Remembering Jesus

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, Come,
Transform these ordinary things
Into sacred gifts.

**Prepare our bodies to be fed.
Prepare our hearts to receive a love
That is more persistent than fear,
And a life stronger than death.**

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Sharing of the Elements

*As you serve one-another Holy Communion, you may offer the following words,
"The Body of Christ, broken for you.
The Cup of the New Covenant, poured out for you."*

Prompts for Discussion and Reflection

When is the last time you read the Bible on your own?

What makes you uncomfortable in the Bible?

When is the last time that God last spoke to you through scripture?

How can our church & clergy best help you relate to the Bible?

What does it mean to have a Bible-centered church?

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let's say thanks for all we have received.

Thanks be to God whose name is Love.

Thanks be to God who hungers

To know us and be known by us.

As we leave this table,

May we carry with us a taste of the inherent worth and dignity of every person,

Offering the same to all we meet. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

SUNG OFFERTORY Standing on the Promises

R. K. Carter

Standing on the promises of Christ, my King!

Through eternal ages let His praises ring.

"Glory in the highest!" I will shout and sing,

standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,

Standing on the promises of God my savior;

Standing, standing,

I'm standing on the promises of God.

*DOXOLOGY Give Thanks

D. Moen

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"

Let the poor say, "I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us"

Give thanks...

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 319 Sing Them Over Again to Me

WORDS OF LIFE

BENEDICTION

SUNG POSTLUDE Standing on the Promises (*refrain*)

R. K. Carter

***Standing, Standing,
Standing on the promises of God my savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.***

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