



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



Order of Worship for
July 5, 2026 10:00 am

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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ROOTED: HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY CHURCH
WEEK 6: SPIRITUAL FORMATION

JULY 5, 2026 – ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PRELUDE This Land is Your Land

W. Guthrie

William Valenti, trumpet

*This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York island
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me*

*As I went walkin' that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway
I Saw below me that golden valley
This land was made for you and me*

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

Adapted from Psalm 36:5-10

One: Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

**All: Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.**

You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.

One: How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!

People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**All: They feast on the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from your river of delights.**

One: For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

**All: Continue your love to those who know you,
your righteousness to the upright in heart.**

*OPENING HYMN NCH 591 This is My Song

FINLANDIA

*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 1: 1-3
John 15: 1-17

SERMON Rooted, Week 6: Trees & Vines

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

HYMN NCH 393 Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

DENNIS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Thanksgiving at the Table

One: Holy God,
you alone are Majesty,
Many: you alone are Excellency,
you alone are Sovereign.
Within the vast reaches you splashed into being,
you formed our star and this planet:

**purple mountains, fruited plains,
crystal waters, towering forests, gleaming mines.**
Here you fashioned human beings
in our infinite variety and hue,
yet each one created equal,
to care for one another
and our earthly home.

One: In a time of peace
enforced by the cruelty of empire,
you came in Jesus to share our life.
Born under the rule of a merciless king,
Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God.

**Many: Moving across borders
to people broken and oppressed,
Jesus brought healing, restoration, and freedom.**

Words of Institution

The Mystery of Faith

One: Remembering, therefore,
Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime,
Christ's resurrection that buries death,
Christ's ascension to rule with love forever,
we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:

Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer of Invocation

Invitation to Communion

Questions Around the Table

Where have you experienced genuine spiritual growth? What conditions made that growth possible?

If you are a tree or the branch of a vine, what is your water source? What feeds you and nourishes you?

What about Center Church has helped you grow spiritually?

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! J. W. Howe
William Valenti, trumpet

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

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 593 Lift Every Voice and Sing LIFT EVERY VOICE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! J. W. Howe

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

Don't miss the last day of Long Weekend in the City of Hartford, including:

***America's Potluck, a free community meal, from 12 PM to 4 PM,
outside our Historic 1807 Meetinghouse at 675 Main Street;***

***the last in of our Sermon Series, featuring Henry Highland Garnett's "Memorial Discourse on
Slavery," in our historic Meetinghouse at 12:30 PM;***

***and this afternoon at 4 PM for our collaboration with Opera Connecticut for "An America 250
Commemorative Concert" at the Artist's Collective at 1200 Albany Avenue.***