



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



Order of Worship for
July 26, 2026 10:00 am

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

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ROOTED: HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY CHURCH
WEEK 9: CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

JULY 26, 2026 – ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

GATHERING MUSIC People Get Ready/Thank the Lord
Thomas St. Amant, Bass Guitar

C. Mayfield

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *†

Please remember to take a prayer card and write down 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
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

One: Welcome! Welcome to the baggage we carry, the joys we share,
the griefs we bear, and the worries we hold.

All: Come! Let us worship!

One: The voice of God is calling us to come with all that we are
and all that we carry to worship.

All: Come! Let us worship!

One: God calls us to gather, to receive grace in our gathering,
and to reorient us again to the ways of God.

All: Come! Let us worship!

One: So, come, members of the family of God!
Bring all that you are to be molded by grace, refocused toward Love,
and woven together as community in Christ.

All: Come! Let us worship! Thanks be to God. Amen.

*OPENING SONG

Firm Foundation

D. Moen

Chorus:

Jesus you're my firm foundation

I know I can stand secure

Jesus you're my firm foundation

I put my hope in your Holy Word

I put my hope in your Holy Word

Verse 1:

I have a living hope (I have a living hope)

I have a future (I have a future)

God has a plan for me (God has a plan for me)

Of this I'm sure (Of this I'm sure)

(to Chorus)

Verse 2:

Word is faithful (Your Word is faithful)

Mighty in power (Mighty in power)

God has delivered me (God has delivered me)

Of this I'm sure (Of this I'm sure)

(to Chorus)

*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

SOLO Variation on "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

Dan Theriault, soloist

J. S. Bach

SCRIPTURE Acts 17: 16-34

SERMON *When in Athens...*

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

MUSICAL RESPONSE God of this City

C. Tomlin

Arunan Arulampalam, soloist

*You're the God of this city,
You're the King of these people,
You're the Lord of this nation*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

OFFERTORY For Your Glory

T. C. Leonard

Carrie Howe, soloist

*For your glory, I will do anything.
Just to see you, to behold You as my King*

*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 SONG Build Your Kingdom Here

Rend Collective

Verse 1

*Come set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit, come invade us now
We are Your Church
We need Your power in us*

Chorus

*Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray*

Vs. 2

*We Seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and price
To see the captive hearts released
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause
We are Your church
We pray, revive this earth*

Vs. 3

*Unleash Your kingdom's power
Reaching the near and far
No force of Hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
We are Your Church
We are the hope on earth
(to Chorus)*

BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE Build Your Kingdom Here (*Refrain*)

Rend Collective

*Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray*

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