



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



Order of Worship for
August 16, 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 12: FUTURE FOCUSED – EMBRACING INNOVATION & ADAPTABILITY

AUGUST 16, 2026 – ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PRELUDE Gavotte

J. S. Bach

Charlotte McCoy, Violin

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *†

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

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

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

Based on Psalm 67

One: Come, People of God - come together, singing songs of the Love of God!
Come, all the people everywhere, Praise your God!

**All: Let all the people, everywhere, praise the Loving, Creator God;
Let all the people everywhere praise God!**

One: May all the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for God judges all people everywhere with equity
and guides the nations of the earth.

**All: Let all the people, everywhere, praise the Just, Creator God;
Let all the people everywhere praise God!**

One: For we have seen the Goodness of God, the bounty of the Earth;
In seeing, we believe, in believing we are blessed!

All: May God be gracious to us and bless us and may God's favor shine on us!

One: Let all the people, everywhere, praise the Loving, Creator God!

All: Let all the people everywhere praise God!

*OPENING HYMN NCH 306 The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

*PASSING OF PEACE

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

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 Isaiah 56: 1, 3-8

Steven Lewis

SERMON *Still Gathering*

Rev. Leslie Jackson
*Area Conference Minister,
Southern New England Conference UCC*

HYMN OF RESPONSE NCH 421 We Gather Together

KRESMER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

OFFERTORY Minuet

J. S. Bach

Charlotte McCoy, Violin

*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...***

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

**Gracious God,
You have gathered us — the outsider, the overlooked, the ones who wondered if we
belonged — and named us welcome in your house of prayer for all peoples.
Receive these gifts we bring.
Let them open the door for someone else to enter in,
and join us to your work of justice and gathering in the world.
We give not as those who possess, but as those who have already been given
everything.
Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN NCH 394 In Christ There is No East or West**

MCKEE

BENEDICTION

Rev. Leslie Jackson

POSTLUDE

Concerto for Violin

J. S. Bach

Charlotte McCoy, Violin

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

**Please stay after worship today for our special meeting to approve expenditures
to begin the restoration and renovation project.**