



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



Order of Worship for
August 23, 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 13: TEAM HEALTH – TRUST, CLARITY & MORALE

AUGUST 23, 2026 – ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

PIANO PRELUDE He Leadeth Me

J. H. Gilmore/BRADBURY

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *†

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

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

Based on Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; Philippians 2:1-11

One: Two are better than one,

Many: for they have a good reward for their labor.

If they fall, one will lift up the other;

but woe to the one who is alone when they fall.

So let us be of the same mind, having the same love,

in humility regarding others as better than ourselves.

Let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus,

who emptied Himself and humbled Himself, even to death on a cross.

Therefore, God highly exalted Him

and gave Him the name above every name.

All: We do not worship alone – we worship together, humbled before The One who humbled Himself for us. Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*OPENING HYMN NCH 448 Take My Life, God, Let it Be

VIENNA

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

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

Traditional Caribbean Melody

SERMON *Better Together: The Humility That Holds Leadership Up*
Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

- *Where have you seen isolated leadership lead to a fall — in church, at work, or in your own life?*
- *What's one practical way our leadership team can build real partnership and accountability?*
- *How would whole-person accountability—balancing ministry, faith, and self-care—look for leaders here, ordained ministers, laity, staff and volunteers?*

CANONBURY

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

H. Arlen

Terrence French, 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 495 Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER*

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst

Leader: Go from this place, not alone —

People: for two are better than one.

Leader: If you fall, may someone lift you up;

People: and may we lift others when they fall.

Leader: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

People: who emptied Himself in love for us.

Leader: Go, humbled and united,

People: trusting the God who lifts up the lowly.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE I've Got Peace Like a River

arr. J. Raney

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

**Named for Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church, Brooklyn, NY, and brother to Harriet Beecher Stowe.*