



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



**Order of Worship for
October 4, 2026 10:30 am**

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

THE TABLE WITH NO EDGES

A Poem by Andrew King (2015)

We will sit down where feet tire from the journey.
We will sit down where grief bends the back.

We will sit down under roofs wrecked by artillery.
We will sit down where cries sound from cracked walls.

We will sit now where heat beats like hammers.
We will sit down where flesh shivers in cold.

We will sit down where bread bakes on thin charcoal.
We will sit down where there is no grain in baked fields.

We will sit down with those who dwell in ashes.
We will sit down in shadow and in light.

We will sit down, making friends out of strangers.
We will sit down, our cup filled with new wine.

We will sit down and let love flow like language
We will sit down where speech needs no words.

We will sit down at the table with no edges.
We will sit to share one loaf, in Christ's Name, in one world.

May it be so. Amen.

ORDER OF WORSHIP – OCTOBER 4, 2026
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

This morning's liturgy is drawn from "A Global Table of Grace," World Communion Sunday from Global Ministries, a partnership between the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

CHIMES

ORGAN PRELUDE Prière à Notre-Dame / Prayer at Notre-Dame L. Boëllmann

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*†

CALL TO WORSHIP

From the United Church of Christ in Japan

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

Many: **Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.**

One: What do we find at today's table?

Many: **God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.**

One: What is not at today's table?

Many: **The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.**

One: Let us repent and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation to all who believe.

Many: **Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.**

All: **Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one.**

OPENING PRAYER

From Global Ministries partners in Australia

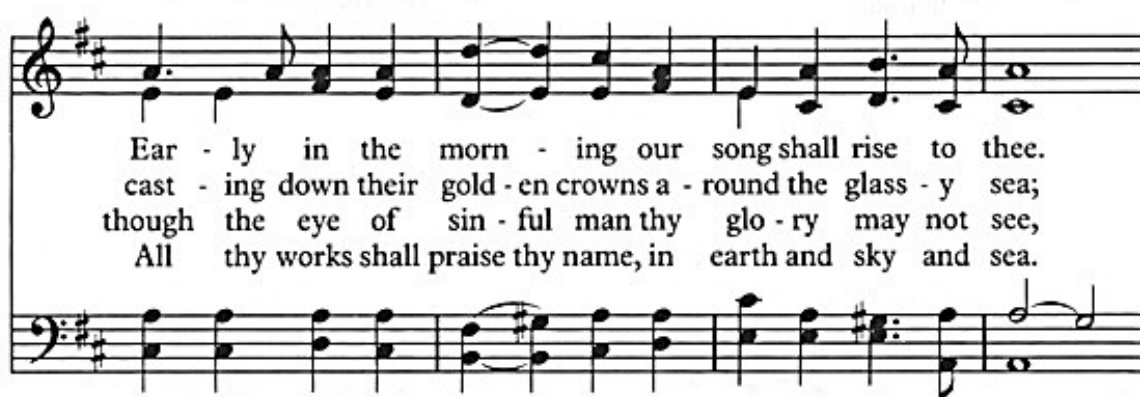
We gather today as the people of God, as a community of Christ's followers. We gather to share Word and sacrament, to discern the ways of faithful service. We serve our God in this community and throughout every land. Let us serve by working toward justice where there is oppression, by offering comfort where there is pain, by sharing love where there is hatred. The Spirit beckons us, because Jesus calls us to enact our faith. Let us now worship the one who calls us!

*OPENING HYMN Santo, Santo, Santo! / Holy, Holy, Holy! NICEA
(insert, next page)

64 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty



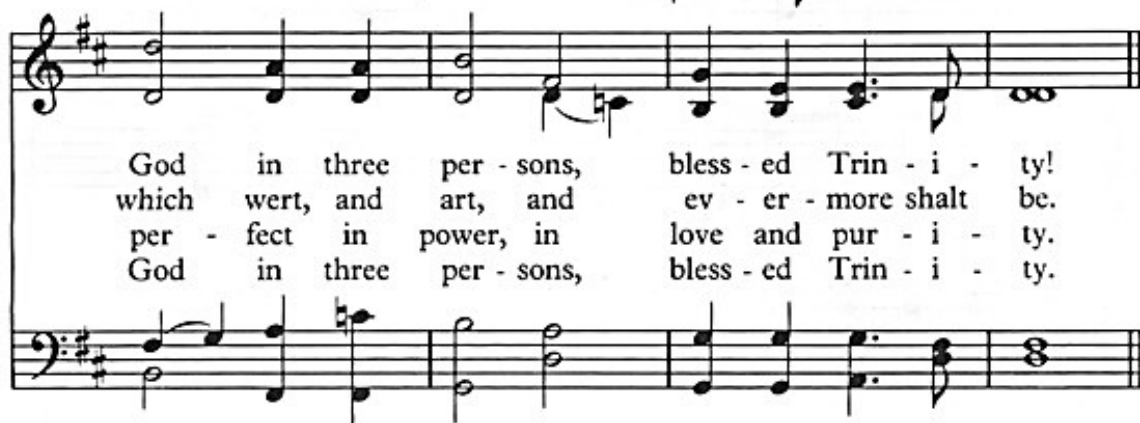
1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark-ness hide thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love and pur - i - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

¡Santo! ¡Santo! ¡Santo!

65

1. ¡San-to! ¡San-to! ¡San-to! Se - ñor om - ni - po - ten - te,
 2. ¡San-to! ¡San-to! ¡San-to! la in - men - sa mu - che - dum - bre
 3. ¡San-to! ¡San-to! ¡San-to! por más que es - tés ve - la - do,
 4. ¡San-to! ¡San-to! ¡San-to! la glo - ria de tu nom - bre

siem - pre el la - bio mí - o lo - o - res te da - rá.
 de án - ge - les que cum - plen tu san - ta vo - lun - tad,
 e im - po - si - ble se - a tu glo - ria con - tem - plar;
 ve - mos en tus o - bras en cie - lo, tie - rra y mar;

¡San-to! ¡San-to! ¡San-to! te a - do - ro re - ve - ren - te,
 an - te ti se pos - tra, ba - ña - da de tu lum - bre,
 San-to tú e - res só - lo, y na - da hay a tu la - do
 ¡San-to! ¡San-to! ¡San-to! te a - do - ra - rá to - do hom - bre,

Dios en tres per - so - nas, ben - di - ta Tri - ni - dad.
 an - te ti que has si - do, que e - res y se - rás.
 en po - der per - fec - to, pu - re - za y ca - ri - dad.
 Dios en tres per - so - nas, ben - di - ta Tri - ni - dad.

COMMISSIONING OF DEACONS & JUNIOR DEACONS

*Andre Keitt
Ruth Fortune
David Reynolds
Robert Gilbert
Rev. Deborah Moyer*

*Sahana Arulampalam
Sandra French
Landon Preston
Henry “Hank” Webster
Theodore “Theo” Webster*

Introduction

Pastor: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

People: **There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.**

Pastor: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

People: **The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.**

Pastor: Christ is like a single body even though it is made up of different parts.

People: **It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.**

Pastor: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it;
If one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

People: **All of us are Christ’s body, and each one has a part of it.**

Covenant

Pastor: Siblings in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ’s Name and for the Glory of God?

Candidates: I am.

Pastor: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Candidates: I do, relying on God’s grace.

Pastor (*addressing the congregation*): Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our siblings in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will you rise in body or spirit and witness to the commitment we now make?

***People: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

Laying on of Hands

Declaration & Greeting of Christian Love

Pastor: In accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the hand of Christian Love.

All: Thanks be to God.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Greet your neighbor in a language other than english!

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

Children are dismissed to Classrooms as the congregation sings...

*Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah,
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah,
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!*

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 5: 1-7
 Matthew 21: 33-46

SERMON Squatters Rights in the Kingdom of God

The Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSICAL RESPONSE Sei getreu bis in den Tod (Be Faithful unto Death)
 (from *St. Paul*) F

F. Mendelssohn

Tim Levesque, tenor; Warburton Music Intern

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Call to Communion

One: From every corner of the earth, Christ calls us to the table.

Many: We come from many peoples, many places, many traditions.

One: We come with the songs of our ancestors
and the prayers of those who came before us.

Many: We come carrying stories of faith, struggle, hope, and joy.

One: From the villages of Africa and the islands of the Pacific, from the mountains of Asia and the cities of the Americas, from the churches of Europe and the Middle East—

Many: We come as one people, gathered in Christ.

One: Some come to this table with abundance. Some come longing for daily bread.

Many: Christ welcomes us all.

One: Some come singing. Some come grieving. Some come with questions.
Some come with gratitude.

Many: Christ welcomes us all.

One: Today, the walls that divide us do not have the final word.
Language does not divide us.
Geography does not divide us. Culture does not divide us.

Many: At Christ's table, there is room for all.

One: Come, people of God. Come with open hands and open hearts.

**All: We come to receive. We come to remember. We come to share.
We come to be made one.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Meal

One: The bread of life, given for all.

People: We receive with gratitude.

One: The cup of blessing, shared for all.

People: We receive with gratitude.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God of every nation and generation,
gather us into the great company of your people—
those who have gone before us,
those who worship beside us,
and those we may never meet in this life.
Until the day when every people and every nation
are gathered into your eternal feast,
keep us faithful to one another and to you.

Many: Send us from this table as people of Christ's peace.

All: One body. One Spirit. One Lord. One faith. One hope. One table. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

Our offering this morning will benefit UCC Global Ministries. Global Ministries works with approximately 250 partners in nearly 90 countries. We join hands with our international partners and walk together in mutual love and respect with our siblings around the world. With partner churches, nonprofit organizations, and ecumenical bodies throughout the world, we share life, resources, support, and faith. This often includes advocacy work, opportunities for mutual exchange and learning, sharing of mission personnel, sharing of financial and material resources, and being in prayer for and with international partners. We hope you will join us in realizing our vision: a world where all of God's people and creation share in God's abundant life.

OFFERTORY Ave Verum Corpus/ Hail, True Body
Center Church Choir

W. A. Mozart

*DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts,
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts,
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*Responsive*)

One: Praise be to God who calls us to imagine
and believe that another world is possible.

**Many: We praise the One who calls us into covenant with one another.
Deliver these our gifts to the work of bringing hope and wholeness to all
our neighbors.**

One: God of all times and all places, remind us of the world as You intend it:
free from hunger, poverty, violence, and oppression.

**Many: Embolden us, O God, to imagine and believe
that another world is possible!**

All: Amen

***HYMN NCH 347** Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

LINSTEAD

***BENEDICTION**

From Global Ministries partners in Cuba

The congregation forms a circle large enough to include everyone.

*Each person either places their hand on the head of the person to their right or their right palm on
the back of the left hand of the person to the right.*

May God prosper you; May your days be long and your nights serene.

May your friendships honor you, and your family love you.

May you eat at your table and may you be gathered into God's embrace with a smile.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE Tu es Petra / Thou art the Rock

H. Mulet

Thank you to everyone who participated in worship. Go in Peace!