



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



Order of Worship for
October 18, 2026 10:30 am

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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 18, 2026 – ORDER OF WORSHIP

Season of Generosity: Let's Make Something Beautiful

**Please rise in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE Adagio (from *Water Music*)

G. F. Handel

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT *†

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the beginning, God made the heavens and the earth.

All: And God saw that it was good!

Day and night, land and sea, filled with creatures great and small.

And God saw that it was good!

And then God made human beings in the divine image,
To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

And God saw that it was good!

Born in beauty, called to make creation more beautiful.

Come, let us make something beautiful together!

Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN All Creatures of Our God and King (*Insert, Next Page*)

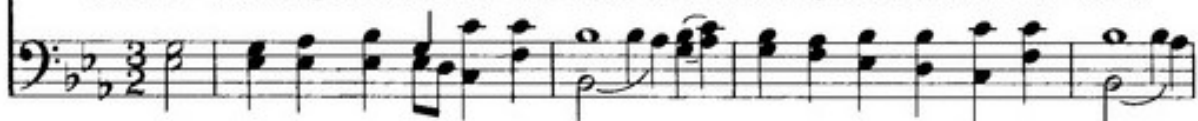
LASST UNS ERFREUEN



**LET'S MAKE
SOMETHING
BEAUTIFUL**



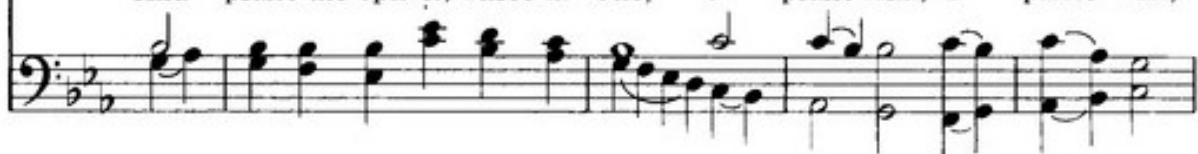
1. All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing
2. Thou rush-ing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heav'n a - long,
3. Thou flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, Make mu-sic for thy Lord to hear,
4. And all ye men of ten-der heart, For-giv-ing oth-ers, take your part,
5. Let all things their Cre-a - tor bless, And wor-ship Him in hum-ble - ness,



Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou burn - ing sun with gold-en beam,
O praise Him, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou ris - ing morn in praise re - joice,
Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia! Thou fire so mas - ter - ful and bright,
O sing ye, Al-le - lu - ia! Ye who long pain and sor - row bear,
O praise Him, Al-le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa-ther, praise the Son,



Thou sil - ver moon with soft-er gleam, O praise Him, O praise Him,
Ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice, O praise Him, O praise Him,
That giv - est man both warmth and light, O praise Him, O praise Him,
Praise God and on Him cast your care, O praise Him, O praise Him,
And praise the Spir-it, Three in One, O praise Him, O praise Him,



Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! A - men.



TEXT: St. Francis of Assisi; translated by William H. Draper
MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1623, Arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams
From the English Hymnal by permission of Oxford University Press.

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
L.M. with Alleluias

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism today are:

Nana Yaa Marfo-Stefanski

Valerie Smith

Helene Yvonne Browne

Introduction to the Sacrament

Liturgy of Baptism

Pastor: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

People: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

Pastor: Jesus came to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptized by you," John said, "yet you have come to me!"

People: Jesus said, "Let it be so for now; for in this way, we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed.

Pastor: As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him.

People: Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased." This is the water of baptism. Out of this water, we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

Questions of the Candidates

**Congregational Assent (Please rise in body or spirit, as you are able)*

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the ones about to be baptized as they live and grow in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support and care.

The congregation is seated.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Joining Center Church today are:

Helen Yvonne Brown

Griff Elder

Tiara Garrett

Eliene Ferreira

Nana Yaa Marfo-Stefanski

Ebony McMillan

Sean Sellers

Valerie Smith

Dan Stefanski

Amanda Webster

Brandon Webster

Introduction to Membership

Questions of the Candidates

**Questions of the Congregation (Please rise in body or spirit as you are able)*

Pastor: Let us, the members of the First Church of Christ in Hartford, Center Church, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: **We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

Moderator: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of The First Church of Christ in Hartford, we extend to you the hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church. Go in the peace of Christ.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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 Genesis 1: 1-31

Ruth Fortune-Reynolds

SERMON Let's Make Something Beautiful

Rev. Liza Arulampalam

MUSICAL RESPONSE Indescribable
 Arunan Arulampalam, Guitar

C. Tomlin

*From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea
Creations revealing Your majesty
From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring
Every creature unique in the song that it sings
All exclaiming*

*Refrain:
Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing, God*

*All powerful, untameable
Awestruck, we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing, God*

*Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go?
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light?
Yet, conceals it to bring us the coolness of night
None can fathom (to refrain)*

*Incomparable, unchangeable
You see the depths of my heart
And You love me the same
You are amazing, God
You are amazing, God*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY Clap Your Hands

N. Roberts

*Center Church Choir
Stewart Battle, soloist*

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDRETH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above, you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN NCH 539 Won't You Let me Be Your Servant

SERVANT SONG

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION (*Responsive*)

Go now in peace,
children of God made in the image of God,
born in beauty, called to make creation more beautiful:
to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with the One
who makes the world more beautiful each day,
now and evermore. Amen.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Allegro Maestoso (from *Water Music*)

G. F. Handel

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