



ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 28, 2021

“For what does  
it profit a man,  
to gain the whole  
world and forfeit  
his life?”

Mark 8:36

W elcome in the name of the Lord.

Behold how good and pleasant it is to share this time together.

May you feel cleansed and renewed by God's presence,  
equipped to face the challenges of the new week with courage, faith, and  
calm.

The Lord be with you.

A t Central, we are committed to living the words of Jesus, "Love one  
another."

This church is open to all and welcomes everyone who chooses  
to worship here.

We affirm that all of us are created in God's image, regardless of age,  
gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental facility, economic  
circumstance, or physical condition.

Because we celebrate diversity, we are committed to using language in  
our worship that is inclusive. To preserve the integrity of the poetry, we may  
also use prayers, readings, hymns, or anthems in traditional versions.

Children are welcome to participate in our worship service.

If you or your children become restless,  
please be mindful that the service is broadcast  
into Chapel Hall so you can share in worship there  
without disturbing others.

HEAD USHER: Frances Munro  
SOUND & LIGHTING: Jim Silverthorn

If you would like a LARGE PRINT  
bulletin, please ask one of the ushers.

We covenant with the Lord and with one another  
and do bind ourselves in the presence of God,  
to walk together in all the ways which are revealed to us by God,  
as the Word is made known to us. †

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

*Welcome to virtual worship. May you find hope, comfort and the love of God here.*

February 28, 2021

10:30 a.m.

---

PRELUDE on 'Heinlein'

ALEC WYTON

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Rev. Dr. Claudia Demick*

INVOCATION

HYMN "Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days"

Lord, who throughout these forty days  
For us didst fast and pray,  
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins,  
And close by Thee to stay

As Thou with Satan didst contend  
And did the victory win,  
O give us strength in Thee to fight,  
In Thee to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence,  
And through Thy passiontide  
Yea, evermore, in life and death,  
Jesus! with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life  
Of suffering over past,  
An Easter of unending joy  
We may attain at last.

## WORD OF FELLOWSHIP

## UNISON OF PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient God, You know how easy it is for us to just sit back and listen to the journey of Jesus from the Jordan to Jerusalem; from life and ministry to death. We would rather be observers than place ourselves on this journey. We don't want to think about the many things that weigh us down; the many ways in which we have turned away from You and sought our own selfish desires. We fear where our faith may lead us. Forgive us and heal us, O God. Give us courage to face our fears and faith to place our trust in Your guiding mercy. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## SCRIPTURE READING

*Mark 8:31-38*

*Ebba Karlssen*

## SERMON "The Courage to Live by Grace"

*The Rev. Rebecca Spencer*

## CALL TO PRAYER

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

## MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

*Mike Hopkins*

## OFFERTORY & DEDICATION OF PLEDGES

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place” JOHANNES BRAHMS

How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts!  
For my soul, it longeth, yea fainteth,  
For the courts of the Lord.  
My soul and body crieth out, yea for the living God.  
How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts!  
Blest are they that dwell within Thy house,  
They praise Thy name evermore.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN: “It is a Thing Most Wonderful”

It is a thing most wonderful,  
Almost too wonderful to be,  
That God’s own Son should come from heav’n  
And die to save a child, a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true;  
He chose a poor and humble lot,  
And wept and toiled and mourned and died  
For love of those who loved, who loved him not.

It is most wonderful to know  
His love for me so free and sure;  
But ’tis more wonderful to see  
My love for Him so faint, so faint and poor.

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE in G Minor

CV STANFORD

## LENTEN SCHEDULE

Lenten events on 3/3 and 3/10 will be virtual. Zoom information will be coming soon!

### Lenten Meditation 5:30- 6:00 p.m.

March 3- Lynn Seacord

March 10- The Rev. Judy Martowska

March 17- Eric Bennett

March 24- Jerilyn Brown

### Lenten Supper Series 6:00- 7:00 p.m.

March 3- Eileen Hayes, Amos House

March 10- Crossroads

March 17- Rhode Island Food Bank

March 24- To Be Announced

### **PALM SUNDAY- MARCH 28**

Service at 10:30 a.m.

More information coming soon

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY- APRIL 1**

Service at 7:30 p.m.

More information coming soon

### **GOOD FRIDAY- APRIL 1**

More information coming soon

### **EASTER VIGIL- APRIL 3**

Service at 7:30 p.m.

More information coming soon

### **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**

More information coming soon

### **EASTER FESTIVAL OF WORSHIP**

Service at 10:30 a.m.

More information coming soon

## THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

### **SUNDAY, February 28**

- 10:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 2:00 p.m. NEOS (Virtual)
- 4:00 p.m. WORD (Virtual)
- 6:00 p.m. The Beautitides (Adult Sunday School)

### **MONDAY, March 1**

- 7:00 p.m.. Technology Committee

### **TUESDAY, March 2**

- 2:00 p.m. Office Staff Meeting

### **WEDNESDAY, March 3**

- 9:30 a.m. Gallery Committee (Virtual)
- 5:30 p.m. Lenten Meditation (Virtual)
- 6:00 p.m. Lenten Mission Gathering (Virtual)

### **THURSDAY, March 4**

- 12:30 p.m. Rebecca's Book Group (Virtual)

### **SATURDAY, March 6**

- 7:00 p.m. Women's Retreat Group

### **SUNDAY, March 7**

- 9:30 a.m. Stewardship Committee
- 10:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Confirmation
- 6:00 p.m. The Beautitides (Adult Sunday School)

Central Congregational Church, a member of the United Church of Christ, believes in God who calls the world into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death. It acknowledges the risen Christ as the ultimate example of God's grace, a gift freely given to all. It looks to the Word of God in the scriptures and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to prosper its redemptive work in the world.

We strive to be a community of God's people in a way that calls each of us to active discipleship. Our purpose is to work for the increase in the love of God and neighbor through worship, caring, sharing, and outreach.

*Christianity is the name of a journey,  
a journey not solely of personal contemplation,  
but one of communal venture that is the Church.*

*It is a journey open to everyone,  
regardless of their condition, regardless of their past;  
all that is required is a decision to follow Him.*

#### STAFF

Rebecca L. Spencer, Senior Minister  
Claudia P. Demick, Associate Minister  
Patrick Aiken, Choirmaster and Organist  
Judy Martowska, Director of Christian Education  
Jennifer Fallon, Church Administrator  
Joseph McNamara, Sexton

#### OFFICERS

William Templeton, Chair of the Permanent Diaconate  
May Grant, Mike Hopkins and Peter Woodberry, Senior Deacons  
Kristin DeKuiper, Chair of the Prudential Committee  
Winfield Major and Mary Hazeltine, Co-Treasurers  
Carol Terry, Clerk  
John Chaney, Archivist  
Frances Munro, Head Usher

296 Angell Street  
Providence, RI 02906  
401-331-1960  
[www.centralchurch.us](http://www.centralchurch.us)