



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 14, 2021

“God so loved the  
world that he gave his  
only Son, that  
whoever believes in  
him should not perish  
but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

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. †

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

*During the prelude, many congregants prepare for worship with prayer, meditation, and contemplation. The Board of Deacons asks the congregation to be aware of the importance of this quite time for many individuals.*

March 14, 2021

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE “When We are in Deepest Need” BWV 641

J.S. BACH

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Rev. Rebecca Spencer*

HYMN “God Loved the World”

God loved the world, and loving gave A wondrous gift, the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All that confide in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

Be of good cheer, for God’s own Son Forgives all sins which thou has done;  
And justified by Jesus’ blood, Thy baptism grants the highest good.

WORD OF FELLOWSHIP

INVOCATION

UNISON OF PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear God of hope and promise, we rely on you for life and purpose  
We confess to you that we have sinned by failing to see hope,  
by not wanting to accept your promise of love always,  
by relying too much on ourselves and neglecting our faith in you.  
Forgive us we ask, and open our hearts again to your promise, and  
our hands to our neighbor in need.  
Remind us that your abiding love gives our lives meaning through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### SCRIPTURE READING

*Numbers 21:4-9*

*John 3:14-21*

*Laurel McLaughlin*

### SERMON “In the Wilderness”

*The Rev. Dr. Claudia Demick*

### CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you;

**People: And with Thy Spirit.**

Leader: Let us pray. O Lord, show Thy mercy upon us;

**People: And grant us Thy salvation.**

Leader: O God, make clean our hearts within us;

**People: And take not Thy Holy Spirit from us.**

### 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. For Thine is the  
kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

### OFFERTORY

#### OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Ye Now Are Sorrowful” (Requiem) JOHANNES BRAHMS

Ye now are sorrowful, howbeit, ye shall again behold me,  
and your heart shall be joyful, and your joy no man taketh from you,  
as one whom his own mother comforteth.

Look upon me; ye know that for a little time labour and sorrow were mine,  
but at the last I have found comfort.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN: “There Is a Green Hill Far Away”

There is a green hill far away  
Within a city wall  
Where the dear Lord was crucified,  
Who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,  
What pains the had to bear  
But we believe it was for us  
He hung and suffered there.

O dearly, dearly He has loved,  
And we must love Him too,  
And trust in His redeeming blood,  
And try His work to do.

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Prelude in G Minor”

JOHANNES BRAHMS

**CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY IS SATURDAY, MARCH 27TH**

Please come help spruce up Central for Holy Week. We need expert and non-expert help for a variety of jobs including dusting, cleaning windows, raking, weeding and more.

Bring the whole family and join us for a couple of hours of volunteer service. Stop by anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. to help. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

## **LENTEN SCHEDULE**

Lenten services on March 17th & March 24th will be in person.

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

March 17- Eric Bennett

March 24- Jerilyn Brown

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

March 17- Rhode Island Food Bank

March 24- To Be Announced

## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

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

Outdoor Procession with Palms- 10:10 a.m.

Service at 10:30 a.m. (available on YouTube after 5:00 p.m.)

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

Service at 7:00 p.m. (live service only- will not be available virtually)

More information coming soon

### **GOOD FRIDAY- APRIL 2**

Service at Noon (live service only- will not be available virtually)

### **EASTER VIGIL- SATURDAY, APRIL 3**

Service at 7:30 p.m. (live service only- will not be available virtually)

### **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4**

Children's Egg Hunt on West Lawn- 9:45 a.m.

Instrumental music prelude- 10:10 a.m.

Service at 10:30 a.m.

## THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

### **SUNDAY, March 14**

- 9:30 a.m. Stewardship Committee
- 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)

### **TUESDAY, March 16**

- 5:45 p.m. Plant & Properties
- 7:00 p.m. Prudential

### **WEDNESDAY, March 17**

- 5:30 p.m. Lenten Meditation (In Person)
- 6:00 p.m. Lenten Mission Gathering (In Person)

### **THURSDAY, March 18**

- 5:30 p.m. Nominating Committee
- 6:30 p.m. Parents Zoo
- 7:00 p.m. Caring & Sharing

### **SATURDAY, March 20**

- Central Newsletter Article Deadline
- 7:00 p.m. Women's Retreat Group

### **SUNDAY, March 21**

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

## MARCH 15TH IS THE LAST DAY TO DONATE SOCKS

Instead of coats, Buy Nothing Day is having a Sock Drive. Please donate new pairs of warm socks, for adults or children, in unopened packaging, and place them in the box in Central's Diman Place entry hall. They will be collected on Monday, March 15th and distributed through local shelters.

If shopping for socks or dropping them off is an issue in this COVID-19 world, you can donate to Buy Nothing Day on its GoFundMe page at [www.gofundme.com/f/bnd-rhode-island-coat-drive/donate](http://www.gofundme.com/f/bnd-rhode-island-coat-drive/donate).

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

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