



ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 7, 2021

“It has taken
forty-six years to
build this temple,
and will you raise
it up in three
days?”

John 2:20

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. ‡

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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

March 7, 2021

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE “Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ” BWV 639
(I call to you, Lord Jesus Christ)

J.S. BACH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Claudia Demick

INVOCATION

HYMN “Unto Thy Temple, Lord, We Come”

Unto Thy temple, Lord, we come
With thankful hearts to worship Thee;
And pray that this may be our home
Until we touch eternity.

And dwell Thou with us in this place,
Thou and Thy Christ to guide and bless,
Here make the wellsprings of Thy grace
Like fountains in the wilderness.
May Thy whole truth be spoken here;
Thy gospel light forever shine;
Thy perfect love cast out all fear,
And human life become divine.

WORD OF FELLOWSHIP

UNISON OF PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all mercy, we know that there are tables in our own lives which should be overturned. We are aware that there are many things that make us reluctant to serve You wholeheartedly. May all that we are be open to Your cleansing presence. Forgive us for the ways in which we fall short of Your intentions for us and for our world. Help us to let go of anything that keeps us from being Your faithful disciples and following where You lead. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SCRIPTURE READING

John 2:13-22

Mark McLaughlin

SERMON “Issues, Intrusions, Ideals and Peaceful Mornings”

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.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “In Faith I Calmly Rest”

HEIDI IULIANO

In faith I calmly rest,
And put my trust in God,
Although oft sore pressed
With anxious care and dread;
Then friendship my reward,
In God my joy I find;
Who keepeth watch and ward
O’er me and o’er my house.

Therefore I give my thanks,
And joy to do God’s will
I know, whate’er befall,
That love doth lead me still.
So, like a little child
Who clasps his mother’s hand,
Serene I take my way
In faith untroubled stand.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN: “Jesu, Grant Me This, I Pray”

Jesu, grant me this, I pray;
Ever in Thy heart to stay;
Let me evermore abide
Hidden in Thy wounded side.

If he flesh, more dangerous still,
Tempt my soul to deeds of ill,
Naught I fear when I abide
In Thy heart and wounded side.

Death will come one day to me;
Jesu, cast me not from Thee:
Dying let me still abide
In thy heart and wounded side.

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Vater unser im Himmelreich” BWV 636
(Our Father Which Art in Heaven)

J.S. BACH

LENTEN SCHEDULE

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

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

March 10- The Rev. Judy Martowska

March 17- Eric Bennett

March 24- Jerilyn Brown

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

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, 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 Beautitudes (Adult Sunday School)

TUESDAY, March 9

- 5:30 p.m. Deacon's Meeting

WEDNESDAY, March 10

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

THURSDAY, March 11

- 7:00 p.m. Food for Thought

SATURDAY, March 13

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

SUNDAY, March 14

- 9:30 a.m. Stewardship Committee
- 10:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. NEOS
- 3:00 p.m. WORD

BUY NOTHING- SOCK DRIVE

Socks are among the most sought-after items in local shelters. So this year, 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.

CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY IS SATURDAY, MARCH 27TH

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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