



ORDER OF WORSHIP  
April 18, 2021  
Central Congregational Church

“Why are you  
troubled,  
and why do  
questions rise  
in your hearts?”

Luke 24:38

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

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 OF EASTER

*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 quiet time for many individuals.*

April 18, 2021

10:30 a.m.

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PRELUDE on “Prelude Modale”

JEAN LANGLAIS

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN Hymn “O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing”

O sons and daughters, let us sing!  
the King of heaven, the glorious King,  
O'er death today rose triumphing,  
Alleluia!

How blest are they who have not seen,  
And yet whose faith hath constant been;  
For they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia!

On this most holy day of days,  
Our hearts and voices, Lord, we raise  
To Thee in jubilee and praise  
Alleluia!

## WORD OF FELLOWSHIP

### INVOCATION

*The Reverend Dr. Claudia Demick*

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Wondrous God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of Your love and instead fall into despair and gloom. Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future. We give thanks for Your Son, Jesus the Christ, who continues to offer us new life, who continues to turn us around and upside down, who continues to break down the walls of death in our own lives. Forgive us, restore us and renew us. In the name of our risen Savior, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### SCRIPTURE READING

*Luke 24:36-48*

*William Connors*

### SERMON *“And still they wondered.”*

*The Rev. Rebecca Spencer*

### 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 Which 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 and ever. Amen

## OFFERTORY "Come, My Way"

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
Such a Way, as gives us breath:  
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:  
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
Such a Light, as shows a feast:  
Such a Feast, as mends in length:  
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
Such a Joy, as none can move:  
Such a Love, as none can part:  
Such a Heart, as joys in love.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN “Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing”

Good Christian friends rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise we in song of victory  
That love, that life which cannot die  
And sing with hearts uplifted high:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,  
And sing today with one accord  
The life laid down, then life restored:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Toccata on ‘O Sons and Daughters’

LYNWOOD FARNHAM

WORSHIP ENDS ---WITNESS AND SERVICE BEGIN

## THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

### **SUNDAY, April 18**

- 9:30 a.m. Virtual Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship (Communion)
- 10:30 a.m. Church school
- 11:30 a.m. Confirmation
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Sunday School- The Parables

### **TUESDAY, April 20**

- 11:00 p.m. East Side Clergy Meeting
- 1:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Prudential Meeting (virtual)

### **WEDNESDAY, April 21**

- 6:00 pm. Mission & Action (virtual)
- 7:00 p.m. Inquirers Meeting(Fireplace Room)

### **THURSDAY, April 22**

- 12:30 p.m. Rebecca's Book Club-Lincoln on the Verge

### **SATURDAY, April 24**

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

### **SUNDAY, April 25**

- 9:30 a.m. Virtual Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Heritage Sunday Worship
- 11:30 a.m. NEOS
- 2:00 p.m. WORD
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Sunday School- The Parables

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  
Amy Gorman, Communications Coordinator  
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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