



ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 2, 2021

“I am the true
vine, and my
Father is the
vinegrower.”

John 15:1

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. ‡

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

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

May 2, 2021

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE on “Meditation”

JEAN LANGLAIS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Rebecca Spencer

HYMN “Now the Green Blade Riseth”

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days had lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth He came at Easter like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain,
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

WORD OF FELLOWSHIP

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

SUZANNE CHASE

THE SALEM COVENANT

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. ‡

HYMN “Servant Song”

Won't you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
we are travelers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Shepherd, we would follow You wherever You might lead. Forgive us when we stumble and when we stray. Forgive us when we become distracted and lose our way. Forgive us when we have not listened for Your voice. You are the one to whom we turn, whose hand we reach for, our Shepherd who leads us safely to the fold. We pray that You will give us healing and forgiveness. Gracious Shepherd, we would follow You wherever you might lead. Guide us in the paths of righteousness and peace we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SCRIPTURE READING

John 15:1-8

Lucy Hanna

SERMON *“Cultivating our Gardens”*

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 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

OFFERTORY "Elevation"

JEAN LANGLAIS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN "Lift Up Your Hearts, Ye People"

Lift up your hearts, ye people, In songs of glad accord,
And in Your adoration Praise Christ, Your risen Lord.
For He hath won the victory O'er sin and death's dark night,
And filled the gloom and darkness With resurrection light.

Now let the earth be joyful In springtime's bright array.
Let hearts downcast and lonely Rejoice this Easter day;
The grave has lost its triumph, And death hath lost its sting,
O sing in exultation To Christ your risen King!

WORSHIP ENDS – Witness and Service Begin



The flowers in the
Chancel today
are given to the glory
of God
and in loving memory
of
JANE E. KLING

2021 ANNUAL MEETING
Southern New England Conference
May 8, 2021 9:00am-4:00pm
First Time delegates are encouraged to attend.
www.sneucc.org
to register

THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

SUNDAY, May 2

- 9:30 a.m. Virtual Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Chapel Hall walk around
- 11:30 p.m. Confirmation
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Sunday School- The Parables

MONDAY, May 3

- 7:00 p.m. Technology Committee Meeting (Deacon's Room)

TUESDAY, MAY 4

- 6:00 p.m. Spiritual Companionship Group (Virtual)
- 7:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting (Virtual)

WEDNESDAY, May 5

- 11:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 9:30 a.m. Gallery Committee (Virtual)
- 4:00 p.m. Trustees' Meeting (Virtual)

FRIDAY, May 7

- 5:30 p.m. Nominating Committee Meeting(Virtual)

SATURDAY, May 8

- 7 p.m. Women's Retreat Group (Virtual)

SUNDAY, May 9

- 9:30 a.m. Virtual Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Chapel Hall walk around
- 11:30 a.m. NEOS (Virtual)
- 2:00 p.m. WORD (Virtual)

Be a Good Egg for One Egg Haiti

Central members are invited to join the Church School in a special collection for the 'Great 50 Days' of the Easter season (culminating in Pentecost) in which we'll not only be recycling the dozens of plastic eggs from our Egg Hunt, but we'll take them home and fill them with money to go to the One Egg Haiti project! It provides school children in Haiti with much needed nutritional help, through an egg a day.

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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