



ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 16, 2021

“...Lord,  
you know  
everyone’s  
heart...”

Acts 1:24

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 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

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

May 16, 2021

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE “Prayer of Christ Ascending”

OLIVIER MESSIAEN

CALL TO WORSHIP

*The Rev. Dr. Claudia Demick*

HYMN “Crown Him With Many Crowns”

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns All music but its own;  
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of years, The potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres, Ineffably sublime,  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise shall never, never fail Throughout eternity.

WORD OF FELLOWSHIP

INVOCATION

*† Based on the Salem Covenant, 1629*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## SCRIPTURE READING

*Acts 1:15, 21-26*

*Laurel McLaughlin*

SERMON “*Easter Continued - The Work of the Church*” *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

OFFERTORY “The Vision Of Isaiah”

David McK Williams

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings. With twain he covered his face, with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

And one cried unto another and said, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried and the house was filled with smoke.

Then said I, “Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”

Then flew one of the seraphim, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar; and he laid it upon my mouth and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips, and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin is purged.

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then said I, Here am I, send me.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN “The Head That Once Was Crowned With Thorns”

The head that once was crowned with thorns Is crowned with glory now;  
A royal diadem adorns The mighty victor’s brow.

The highest place that heaven affords Is His, is His by right;  
The King of kings and Lord of lords, And heaven’s eternal light

To them the cross with all its shame, With all its grace, is given;  
Their name an everlasting name, Their joy the joy of heaven.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE IMPROVISATION

WORSHIP ENDS – Witness and Service Begin

Don't Miss The Rebecca L. Spencer Lecture Series 2021

This series is founded by Lorne Adrian with the intent of Rhode Islanders sharing stories, perspectives and insights that enrich, enliven and strengthen the Ocean State community.

Thursday, June 10 at 7pm

Our speaker will be Dr. Ted Widmer:

American Historian, writer, former White House Advisor, Central neighbor, and nationally acclaimed author of

“Lincoln on the Verge: Thirteen days to Washington.”

*“Ted Widmer immerses readers in a pivotal moment at the brink of the Civil War.*

*As America faces another moment of seemingly irreparable disunion, Widmer finds relevance-and even reasons for hope-in the past.”*

The event is free and open to the public, so bring your friends and family.

## THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

### **SUNDAY, May 16**

- 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

### **TUESDAY, MAY 18**

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Prudential Meeting (Virtual)

### **THURSDAY, May 20**

- 12:30 p.m. Rebeccs's Book Group- *The Indomitable Florence Finch* by Robert Mrazek (Virtual)
- 7:00 p.m. Caring and Sharing (Virtual)

### **SATURDAY, May 22**

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

### **SUNDAY, May 23**

- 9:30 a.m. Virtual Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship(Communion, Confirmation)
- 11:30 a.m. Chapel Hall walk around
- 6:00 p.m. NEOS
- 7:00 p.m. WORD

## **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  
Marilyn Brown, Interim 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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