



ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 9, 2021

“As the Father  
has loved me,  
so I have loved  
you; abide in my  
love.”

John 15:9

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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

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

May 9, 2021

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE “Chant de Mai”

JOSEPH JONGEN

CALL TO WORSHIP

*The Rev. Dr. Claudia Demick*

HYMN “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.

Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee;  
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

WORD OF FELLOWSHIP

INVOCATION

*† Based on the Salem Covenant, 1629*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful and gracious God, we are grateful for the community that we have with one another and with You. We are grateful for those who walk with us following Your ways. We also acknowledge that there are times when we do not love in the ways that You love us. Forgive us we pray when we are unable to see You in those around us. Give us a vision of Your community to guide us. Help us to bear the fruits worthy of You in our lives. Help us to walk the path of love You set for us and in so doing may we draw ever closer to Your vision for Your world. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### SCRIPTURE READING

*John 15:9-17*

*Alden Wohlgenuth*

### SERMON “*So...how hard is it to love one another?*”

*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 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

JOHN RUTTER

For the beauty of the earth  
For the beauty of the skies  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies...

*Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise.*

For the beauty of the hour  
Of the day and of the night  
Hill and vale and tree and flower  
Sun and moon and stars of light...

For the joy of human love  
Brother, sister, parent, child  
Friends on earth and friends above  
For all gentle thoughts and mild...

For each perfect gift of Thine  
To our race so freely given  
Graces human and divine  
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN “Creator, by Whose Name all Motherhood is Known”

Creator, by whose Name all motherhood is known,  
Who dost in love proclaim each family Thine own,  
Bless Thou all people guarding well,  
With constant love as sentinel,  
The homes in which Thy people dwell.

O Spirit, who dost bind our hearts in unity,  
Who teaches us to find the love from self set free,  
In all our hearts such love increase,  
That every home by this release,  
May be the dwelling place of peace.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Paean”

PERCY WHITLOCK

WORSHIP ENDS – Witness and Service Begin

## Re-Imagining Chapel Hall

With every COVID safety protocol in place, you are invited to stroll through a one-way display in Chapel Hall to see the creative and inspired new vision for this 180-year-old Central community gathering space.

On Sunday, MAY 9th, just after worship, this brief walking tour around Chapel Hall will allow you to see the space as it is, and how it will look as a Re-Imagined resource. The presentation is designed to be fun, informative, safe, brief, and – inspiring!

The exhibition will remain in place for several weeks, to allow anyone to enjoy the experience at their convenience, and in isolation if you prefer. You may drop by Central when the office is open, and walk through the presentation at your convenience.

We guarantee you will be inspired!

## THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

### **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 p.m. NEOS
- 2:00 p.m. WORD

### **TUESDAY, MAY 11**

- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 5:45 p.m. Deacons Meeting

### **THURSDAY, May 13**

- 11:00 p.m. Food for Thought (Claudia's Book Group)

### **SATURDAY, May 15**

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

### **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 a.m. Confirmation

## **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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