



ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 30, 2021

“For God so
loved the world
that He gave His
only begotten
son.”

John 3:16

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. †

TRINITY SUNDAY

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

May 30, 2021

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Rebecca L. Spencer

HYMN “Come Down, O Love Divine”

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

WORD OF FELLOWSHIP

INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Spirit of power and grace, confused and bewildered by Your power, we turn
aside from Your transforming grace; uncertain about the future, we allow
our troubles and fears to keep us from tasting Your promised joy. We fail
to welcome the grace of Your healing love into our hearts. We want proof
before we are satisfied. Forgive us. Give us trusting hearts, that we may hear
Your word, welcome Your spirit, and proclaim Your love to all the world.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:1-17

Tedford Radway

SERMON “And the Answer is....”

The Rev. Claudia P. 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 ANTHEM “At the River”

AARON COPLAND

Shall we gather by the river,
Where bright angels’ feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God.

Yes, we’ll gather by the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints by the river
That flows by the throne of God.

Soon we’ll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease,
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

HYMN “America the Beautiful”

O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,
And crown Thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine.
Till all success be nobelness, And every gain divine.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP ENDS – Witness and Service Begin

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL TODAY
are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of

John P. Boyce

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUEST ORGANIST,
Jim Morgan

THE ROSES FOR WAR MEMORIAL AND IN MEMORIAM PLAQUES are given this Memorial Day by the Permanent Diaconate. These flowers are a symbol of our congregation’s gratitude for the sacrifices of those who have died and for those who have served our country in the cause of freedom.

CENTRAL PROVIDES MEMORIAL FLOWERS on its Communion Table each week to beautify our Sanctuary. That’s just the first step of a very important mission: to provide fresh flower bouquets to members in need of cheer, a reminder that they are missed, loved and an important part of our congregation. If you would like to sponsor flowers to honor someone important in your life, please contact the church office.

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
immediately follows Worship June 6**

The Annual Meeting of Central Congregational Church will be held on
June 6, 2021 immediately following worship.

The purposes of the Annual Meeting are to adopt an annual budget; to vote upon the nominations for church officers and committee members; to approve advances of up to \$750,000 for construction costs incurred in the renovation of Chapel Hall and the Church Gallery in excess of pledges collected for the capital campaign; and to transact such other business as may come before the meeting. The proposed advances have been approved by both the Prudential Committee and a special joint committee of the Endowment Funds Board, representatives of the Prudential Committee and the Finance Subcommittee, the Treasurer and the Senior Minister. The advances will enable construction work on the renovations approved by the congregation at its Jan. 2020 meeting to commence during the summer months before the capital campaign is fully launched.

The Rev. Judy Martowska will offer special programming for children during the meeting.

If due to health concerns or other commitments you are not able to attend in person, proxy ballots are available in the church office which may be picked up any time during regular office hours. Barry Bayon will serve as your proxy at the meeting

The Rebecca L. Spencer Lecture Series 2021

Dr. Ted Widmer

Thursday, June 10, at 7pm

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

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.

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!

CAMP STREET MINISTRIES

Let's fill the shelves! Cereal and shelf stable milk are needed for the food pantry. Please bring in donations of these items and leave them in the baskets inside the sanctuary doors as you arrive for worship or you can drop them off in the church office during business hours.

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
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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