



ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 18, 2021

“He Shall Build
a House for My
Name.”

2 Samuel 7:13

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 EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

July 18, 2021

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE “O wie selig seid ihr doch, ihr Frommen”
“Oh, how blest are ye whose toils are ended”

JOHANNES BRAHMS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Claudia Demick

HYMN “How Firm a Foundation”

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you hath been said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
“Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give Thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply.
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

WORD OF FELLOWSHIP

INVOCATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, it is so easy for us to focus on all the things that are wrong. We spend so much time and energy in anger and sorrow, leaving behind the possibilities of hope and service to you. Ease our hearts, O God. Forgive us our willingness to get caught up in pessimism and inaction. Direct our steps toward all that will produce growth and peace in your world. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SCRIPTURE READING

Mary Marran

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37

SERMON “Dancing Before God”

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 SENTENCES

OFFERTORY “How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place”

JOHANNES BRAHMS

How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts!
For my soul, it longeth, yea fainteth,
For the courts of the Lord.
My soul and body crieth out, yea for the living God.
Blest are they that dwell within Thy house,
They praise Thy name evermore.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Christ all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore,
Praise Triune God Whom we adore

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN “Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak In living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek Thy erring children lost and lone.
O strengthen me, that while I stand Firm on the rock, and strong in Thee,
I may stretch out a loving hand To wrestlers with the troubled sea!
O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord, Until my very heart o’erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word, Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

POSTLUDE “Prelude in G Minor”

JOHANNES BRAHMS

WORSHIP ENDS - Witness and Service Begin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S STORIES WITH JUDY

During this virtual summer program, Judy will share a story - either from the Bible or about aspects of faith - and then lead the children in a discussion. It's a great way for kids to stay connected whether or not they're attending church. Contact Judy for a Zoom invitation.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER PROGRAM

In this new Sunday morning program, Central's children will learn about life in Jesus' time while enjoying crafts and other activities. Sundays, June 20 through September 5 (except July 25), 10:00 a.m.

JOIN US FOR LUNCH AT GREGG'S!

All are invited to gather at Gregg's Restaurant (1303 N. Main Street) after worship on Sunday, July 18.

WOMEN'S RETREAT GROUP LUNCHEON

A special gathering of the Women's Retreat Group will take place at India Restaurant (1060 Hope Street) following Worship on Sunday, July 25.

REBECCA'S BOOK GROUP

Join Rebecca for her Book Group on August 12 at 12:30 p.m. on Zoom, featuring *The Agitators*, by Dorothy Wickenden. The group will discuss this interesting and informative look at three women who were actively involved in both the abolitionist movement as well as women's rights. The book centers around Harriet Tubman, Martha Coffin Wright, and Frances Seward. It is a great Summer Read!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT BOOK GROUP

Join Claudia on Thursday, August 12, at 7 p.m. for a lively discussion of *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride. NPR describes it as "a feverish love letter to New York City, people, and writing."

LUNCH AT BLOUNT CLAM SHACK

Bring your sunglasses and join Central friends for a delicious outdoor lunch at Blount Clam Shack on the beautiful Warren River (335 Water Street, Warren). Sunday, August 15, after Worship

THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

SUNDAY, July 18

- 9:00 a.m. Children's Stories with Judy (Virtual)
- 9:00 a.m. Summer Bible Study (Chapel Hall)
- 10:00 a.m. Children's Summer Program (Fireplace Room)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Lunch at Gregg's Restaurant

TUESDAY, July 20

- Newsletter Deadline
- 6:30 a.m. Amos House

SUNDAY, July 25

- 9:00 a.m. Children's Stories with Judy (Virtual)
- 9:00 a.m. Summer Bible Study (Chapel Hall)
- 10:00 a.m. Children's Summer Program (Fireplace Room)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship

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 DeKuijer, 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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