



ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 12, 2021

“WHO DO
PEOPLE
SAY I AM?”

Mark 8:27

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. †

GATHERING SUNDAY

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

September 12, 2021

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE “Adagio” (Organ Symphony 3)

LOUIS VIÈRNE

Introit

George Thalban-Ball

The Lord God omnipotent reigneth;
Let us rejoice and and be glad
And give honor unto God.
Hallelujah!

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Claudia P. Demick

HYMN “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God’s command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where’er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

There’s not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne,
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care,
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.

WORD OF FELLOWSHIP

CHAPEL HALL UPDATE

Caroline Considine

INVOCATION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of compassion, if You kept a record of our sins, who could stand? We come before You with our brokenness and our wounds for You to heal. We bring our whole selves to You this day: our anger, our bitterness, our sorrows, our joys and all that we are. We try to do good, but sometimes we fail. Forgive us we pray when we stumble and lift us when we fall. Give us wisdom in our choices that we may serve You in all the ways to which You call us. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

Glory to the Creator, and to the Son, and Holy Spirit, One;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR;

Kendall Claire Griffith
Avery Elizabeth Griffith
Claire Margaret Griffith Groves

BAPTISMAL HYMN “I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”
(Stanzas one and two before the baptism, remaining verses after)

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
I'll be there in case you wander off and find where demons dwell.

When you found the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living God, to Whom you now belong.
Should you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark McLaughlin

Mark 8 : 27-38, pp.43-44

SERMON “But who do you say I am?”

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 ANTHEM "O Be Joyful"

JOHN RUTTER

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:
Serve the Lord with gladness and come before His presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord He is God;
It is He that hath made us and not we ourselves;
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
O go your way into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise;
Be thankful unto Him and speak good of His Name.
For the Lord is gracious; His mercy is everlasting;
And His truth endureth from generation to generation.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

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 “The Church’s One Foundation”

The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heav’n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
Elect from ev’ry nation, Yet one o’er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With ev’ry grace endued.
Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.
Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
Like, the meek and lowly, On high may dwell with Thee.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Finale” (Organ Symphony 1)

LOUIS VIÈRNE

The roses on the pulpit are given by the Board of Deacons in honor of
Kendall Claire Griffith
Avery Elizabeth Griffith
Claire Margaret Griffith Groves

The flowers on the communion table are given
to the glory of God and in memory of
Martha P. Sherman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

It's that time of year again! Registration begins at 9:30am. on September 12. We are excited about our new look. Thanks to Torin Matheu for her decorating talents. It is going to be a great year!

NEOS AND WORD COOKOUT

Celebrate the new Church School year! We are excited to have you back and look forward to food and fun. Grab a burger and a lemonade and catch up with your friends from Central! Meet us on the West Lawn on September 12 at 11:45am.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation classes begin September 19. We look forward to an interactive class and supporting our youth on their spiritual journey. Classes will take place at 11:45 a.m.

REBECCA'S BOOK GROUP

Kick off the fall by discussing "His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope" by Pulitzer Prize winning biographer, Jon Meacham. Thursday, September 30 at 12:30p.m.

WOMEN GATHER

Save the date! Women Gather was born when a group of women in this church asked themselves: What happens when church ladies gather? The answer? Good conversation and lots of fun! And this brand new group for women of all ages was born. Join us for an outdoor lunch at Blount Clam Shack on 335 Water Street in Warren, RI at 12:30p.m. on October 3. Contact Claudia if you have questions.

FRIDAY FILM FARE

The Show Must Go On! Grab some popcorn and enjoy a great flick! Starting in October, monthly showings will take place in the Fireplace Room. Keep your eye out for the flyer in next month's Central News.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our learning community will reconvene in October. Contact Claudia to join the email list. Details will be announced mid- September. Sundays, starting October 3, 9:00 am - 10:00 a.m. in the Fireplace Room

FRIDAY FILM FARE

Friday Film Fare relaunches on Friday, October 15, at 7:30p.m. Join us in viewing Rocketman (2019). This is no ordinary biopic film. Legendary performer, Elton John is depicted by Taron Egerton. See how this shy ,small- town boy became a mega rock star. You are certain to be moved by the story and the music!

WOMEN'S RETRAT GROUP

The women of Central are invited to gather in solidarity to pray and check in on the third Monday of the month beginning in October. The first event will take place Thursday, October 18, at 7:00p.m. via Zoom. Please contact Claudia for an invitation

THE HAITI TASK FORCE

The Haiti Task Force created an emergency donation site to support our mission and friends in Haiti who are impacted by the violence there. To help go to <https://gofund.me/db948e2f>

THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL

SUNDAY, September 12, 2021

- 9:30 a.m. Church School Registration and Gathering for Parents, Teachers and Children (Gathering Space and the Outdoor Labyrinth)
- 10:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. After Church Fellowship (West Lawn)
- 11:45 a.m. NEOS and WORD Cookout
- 11:45 a.m. Leadership Development Committee (Fireplace Room)

TUESDAY, September 14, 2021

- 5:30 p.m. Deacon's Meeting - Brown Bag Supper to follow (Outdoors or Wilson Chapel)
- 5:30 p.m. Prudential Meeting - Brown Bag Supper to follow (Fireplace Room)

THURSDAY, September 16, 2021

- 6:30 p.m. Religious Education Meeting

SATURDAY, September 18, 2021

- 11:00 a.m. John and Twyler Boyce Memorial - Reception to follow

SUNDAY, September 19, 2021

- 10:30 a.m. Church School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Confirmation Classes Begin
- 11:45 a.m. Flower Committee (Wilson Chapel)

Are you interested in learning more about Central Church?

JOIN US IN OUR INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, Inquiries Meeting,

7:00P.M. - 8:00P.M. IN THE FIREPLACE ROOM

Tuesday, November 3, Faith Exploration Meeting,

7:00P.M. - 8:00P.M. IN THE FIREPLACE ROOM

Sunday, November 7, New Member

7:00P.M. - 8:00P.M. IN THE FIREPLACE ROOM

Contact Rebecca if you have questions.

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
Antonia Greco, Church Administrator
Joseph McNamara, Sexton

OFFICERS

William Templeton, Chair of the Permanent Diaconate
Mark McLaughlin, Mary Francis Bishop, Caroline Considine,
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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