

The First Church of Christ in Hartford
founded 1632
a member of the United Church of Christ



**Embracing God's Presence,
Serving the City,
Building Upon Our Heritage**

Sunday, August 20, 2017

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD
*An Open and Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ*

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome ~ Bienvenidos

August 20, 2017

10:00 AM

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CENTER CHURCH. We are glad you have joined us for this service of worship and the fellowship of this congregation. We hope that you will be both comforted and challenged by the Word of God for us today. If you are new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home. Any of our worship leaders or ushers will be able to help with your questions. If you are already a member, be sure to extend a friendly greeting to those around you, starting with someone you don't know...yet.

*Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices
before the service of Worship begins.*

*Childcare is available in the nursery (room A)
during the summer months.*

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*"If we have no peace,
it is because we have forgotten
that we belong to each other."*

~ St. Teresa of Calcutta

TOLLING OF THE HOUR and GREETING

HIGHLIGHTING OUR MINISTRIES

COMING BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE

My Jesus, I Love Thee

Arr. B. Walters

PLEASE STAND.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together
in unity!

People: It is like a summer rain, which restores the parched earth.

Leader: It is like a cool breeze at the shore of a lake, at the top of a
mountain, or through a crowded city street.

**All: God meets us here. We have gathered to worship the Maker of
Our Days, the Restorer of Our Souls, and the Breath of Our
Lives.**

HYMN

Ask Me What Great Things I Know

No. 49

HENDON

PLEASE BE SEATED.

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Maker of Our Days,

**you created each of us unique beings with differing strengths and
weaknesses. Help us not only to use our strengths to assist others,
but also to allow others to use their strengths to meet our
weaknesses.**

Restorer of Our Souls,

**you have seen the parched places we have made in our lives, along
with the hurt thrust upon us by the action or inaction of others.
Meet us in the places of our deepest pain, so that our masks of self-
sufficiency might fall away and we might be drawn into right
relationship with you and one another.**

Breath of Our Lives,

without you, we are but clay. Fill us with your presence, invigorate

our worship, and set us on fire, so that others might be drawn into your light and nurtured by the warmth of your loving care.

We pray these things in the name of the one who taught us to pray together, saying...

Our Father*, who 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

(* = traditional wording but you may use alternative wording, such as “God,” “Creator,” or “Mother,” as seems fitting.)

CONFESSION AND RESPONSE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: When we try to go it on our own, lacking faith in divine providence,
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Time for personal reflection and confession.

Leader: When we have not recognized God at work in the faith of others,
People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Time for personal reflection and confession.

Leader: In all that we have done and all that we have left undone,
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Time for personal reflection and confession.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: God calls each of us by name and cries out with tears of joy as we recognize God in our admission of need.

People: **Praise be to God, who welcomes us as we are, challenges us to let go of our guilt, and provides a way for us to walk on together.**

PLEASE STAND.

Congregational Response

“Glory to God the Creator”

music: Ronald A. Nelson, 1986

text: *Gloria patri*, 3rd century, transl.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The love of God, the peace of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Since in Christ we have been reconciled, let us share his peace with one another.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S LIVING WORD

PLEASE BE SEATED.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 15:21-28

Translation: *NRSV*

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN

God, Bless Our Homes

No. 429

CHARTERHOUSE

PLEASE BE SEATED.

SERMON Health and Healing for All

Dr. Efrain Agosto

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.

SOLO

There is a Balm in Gilead

African American Spiritual

Martine Bruno, guest soloist

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

(We encourage you to use offering envelopes when giving.)

Offertory Solo

He Touched Me

Traditional

Martine Bruno, guest soloist

PLEASE STAND AS THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD.

Hymn of Presentation

OLD HUNDREDTH

text: Thomas Ken, 1674; alt.

music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heav'nly host:

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, you are our provider. We dedicate to your service our lives, and these offerings from your blessing and our labor. Work in us and through us to extend your love and care, health and healing, here and around the world. Amen.

GOING FORTH

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.

HYMN

For the Healing of the Nations

No. 576

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Please sing verses 1-3.

BENEDICTION

Leader: You have been reconciled with Christ.
Do the work of Christ in the world:
 extend a hand to those in need,
 speak up for those cast aside,
 build bridges of reconciliation,
 strengthen bonds of community,
 knowing that
 the Maker of Our Days,
 the Restorer of Our Souls
 and the Breath of Our Lives
will be with you this day and ever more.

People: Amen.

*Please enjoy the postlude or exit quietly.
Go in peace!*

POSTLUDE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Ludwig Van Beethoven, 1770-1827
Arr. C. Berry