

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**“Center Church”**



United Church of Christ - ONA  
One Church Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

(413) 532-2262

email: [centerchurch@verizon.net](mailto:centerchurch@verizon.net)

website: [www.centerchurchsouthhadley.org](http://www.centerchurchsouthhadley.org)

Facebook: Center Church of South Hadley MA

Instagram: @centerchurchsouthhadley

*We, the congregation of the First Congregational Church of South Hadley, MA, UCC, also known as Center Church, declare ourselves to be Open and Affirming. Our congregation is welcoming to all, embracing those of differing sexual orientation, transgender/gender identity and expression, marital status, age, mental and physical health and ability, racial and cultural background/identity, and educational/socioeconomic status. We are open to all to share in Christ's bountiful love through life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys. In the spirit of Paul in Galatians, we celebrate the diversity in which God has created us!*

## June 21, 2026

*The great basis of Christian assurance is not how much our hearts are set on God,  
but how unshakably his heart is set on us.* Timothy Keller

### **PRELUDE**

*Galilee  
Innocents  
Flute Pastorale*

J. Mansfield  
M. Thomas  
L. Smith

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

### **INTROIT**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** God, we enter into a brand new moment of worship  
this very moment.

**People:** **We come with deep gratitude and wide expectation.**

**Leader:** Thank you for dreaming this day into being.

**People:** **Thank you for inviting us to celebrate it with you  
and with one another.**

### **\*HYMN**

*This Is the Day*

black # 84

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **MORNING PRAYERS**

#### **Prayer of Confession**

**Sometimes God, life is too much. In such moments we are  
tempted to give up. Help us to see that life does not have to be what  
it is. Grant us grace to receive your wondrous blessings. And with  
our renewed strength and courage, we will not forget to say thank  
you. Amen**

#### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

God reminds us that in our witness and serving, Jesus is with us  
always. Praise be to the One who forgives tirelessly.

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

#### **Silence**

## Lord's Prayer (debts)

*Our Creator/Father/Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your Kingdom come; your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen*

## Congregational Response



Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -



cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace. A - men.

## READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Matthew 10:24-39

<sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>“Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup>“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

<sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, <sup>36</sup>and one's foes will be members of one's own household. <sup>37</sup>“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

## SERMON

## Assurance Found in Demands

**\*HYMN**

*Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult*

black #172

**OFFERING**

**Invitation**

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low,  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore,  
One God triune whom we adore. Amen***

**Prayer of Dedication**

**\*HYMN**

*Blessed Assurance*

black #473

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Threefold Amen*

**POSTLUDE**

*Sing and Rejoice*

L. Smith

We invite you to remain quietly and celebrate the conclusion of worship in the postlude. *The Deacons are asking you to refrain from clapping. If moved by the postlude or worship, please shout out "AMEN!" We are implementing this to move away from worship being a performance, to sharing a sentiment of having been filled by worship/music.*

*\*Please stand if you are comfortable.*



*We hope that you find your worship experience meaningful.  
If you are new to the community, we invite you to make this your church home.*

*Please stay after worship for refreshments and fellowship  
downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.*

**In our Service Today**

<b>Preacher:</b>	Rev. Lori J. Souder
<b>Scripture Reader:</b>	David Morrell
<b>Organist/Choir Director:</b>	Cynthia J. Morrell
<b>Soloist:</b>	Ben Coakley
<b>Deacon:</b>	Randy Hyvonen



If you are visiting with us today, **WELCOME**. At the close of the service, please take a small welcome gift found in the baskets located at the sanctuary narthex and crossway doors. It is our token of saying "thank you for sharing worship with us, we truly feel blessed and we hope to see you again soon."

## PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Continual:

Barbara Blank,  
on Hospice at Reeds Landing  
Eileen Halkyard  
Elisa's young friend Elija, addiction recovery  
Eunice Howes  
Elisa Morrison's step-mother Sandy, and  
brother Carl, with heart issues  
Leila Mulder, attending boarding school  
Fay Paquette  
Nikki Wolf, Linda's granddaughter  
Those struggling with addiction,  
with cancer, and with chronic disease



### Situational:

Cynthia Baker  
Dennis Banks, friend of Karen and  
Estelle Anderson, with cancer  
Bob Cocker, Rob Cocker's dad, after a fall  
Robin Glossner, undergoing chemo  
John Hoffman's parents, Jean and John  
Family and friends of Dave Nelson,  
Mary's dad, who died recently  
Family and friends of Marilyn Pryor,  
who passed away last week  
Hitesh Shroff, with cancer  
Bernice Strong, with pneumonia

**If you have submitted one of these  
when it is time to remove someone's**

**requests for prayer, please let us know  
name from the list,**

### This Week at Center Church

Today	<b>Deacons following Worship</b>
Thursday	AA 1:30pm Dance Lessons
Sunday	<b>Worship 10am</b>



## THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH

**Ministers:** All Church Members  
**Senior Minister:** Rev. Lori J. Souder

### Christian Education Program

**Children:** Vicki Scherer, Coordinator, Emily Mulder & Julia Nogales, Teachers

**Youth Coordinator:** Kenneth Mulder

**Nursery Caregiver:** Annabelle Burke

### Music

**Organist:** Larry Schipull  
**Choir Director:** Ben Coakley  
**Associate in Music:** Cynthia Morrell  
**Office Administrator:** Cynthia Jubinville  
**Sexton:** Robert Farman





## Summer Worship Schedule

- June** Worship at Center Church 10am  
**July** Joint Worship at Church of Christ Granby 10:30am  
**August** Joint Worship at Center Church 10am

## Center Church Announcements

**Please sign up to read Scripture during Sunday worship.** There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Bock Crossway. Also, please consider being a greeter as folks come into the Sanctuary – signup sheet also in the Crossway.



**Bible Study at Loomis is taking a hiatus June-July.** In the meantime, explore the scriptures on your own and share which ones comforted, surprised, or inspired you!



&



**September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**

When can I drop off donation? A frequently asked question. **Starting on Tuesday, June 16,** and continuing each Tuesday, we will be accepting donations, 9am to noon. **PLEASE hold off until the 16<sup>th</sup>!** Fellowship Hall is being rented on Saturday June 13. Already we have received items from folks that moving, Mount Holyoke College graduates who are unable to pack stuff up and from Church of Christ tag sale. Right now, behind the curtains are full. If you do drop off when we not “open,” after June 16, we appreciate that you put your donation in the marked area. Believe it or not there is an organized system. Of course, donations are always accepted on Sundays after Church – again after the 16<sup>th</sup>!

You are welcome to join us on Tuesday mornings starting June 16. Many hands and volunteer hours are needed to make this fundraising event successful. An hour or two makes a huge difference. There is always something to do. Check out the [C@C](#) July/ August for other drop off days. The Fall Tag Sale, September 12 and 13, is an all-church event. Our success is dependent on the items being sold and your willingness to help in the many tasks it takes to put it together.

Be sure to review the “What Does Not Sell” page in the newsletter, as you pack up your treasures that need a new home. Thank you!



**November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The Holiday Bazaar is planned for November 21-22, still 6 months away in the future, but on the drawing board! We will host talented crafters as we did last November, so we are starting the planning. We want to **open the invitation to crafters to plan to join us for the weekend of November 21-22**, and I will forward an application as soon as crafter inquiries arrive. Let us know if you have any contacts I should reach out to. *Corinne*



Sheila Adams' **Operation Backpack** is in full swing for the coming school year (yes, school just got out!) She needs all kinds of school supplies to help our local kids start the year right. For the last several years, Center Church has collected items to help our local kids. Let's do it again this year! Unbelievably, Staples already has great sales on supplies kids of all ages will need. We won't be worshipping in our building during July, but the Operation Backpack box is still down by the side door. You can shop, then drop by church during the week (Tuesday - Thursday) to fill that box!

Thank you, generous Center Church. *Your Outreach Team.*



Join us for **Under the Stars Family Movie Night, Friday, June 26, 7pm.** Movie starts at dusk.

**Where:** United Methodist church parking lot, 30 Carew St., South Hadley, **RAIN or SHINE**

**What else:** Drinks, Games, snacks!! Bring a chair, blanket, even a friend. What movie? Come and find out. Family fun for the whole community.



St. Patrick's church, South Hadley, MA is seeking an organist to play at weekend Masses, Holy Days, Holidays, Funerals and Weddings.

If interested in this part time position, and for a detailed Job description, please contact: Deacon David Bergeron, Manager, St. Patrick's church South Hadley, (413)-213-6625 [d.bergeron@diospringfield.org](mailto:d.bergeron@diospringfield.org) Thank you!



# This Is the Day

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.  
St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison Eb Bb7

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our  
 2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus  
 3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

Eb

God has made; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be  
 rose a - gain; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be  
 Spir - it came; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be

Ab Eb Ab

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joyce and be  
 glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joyce and be  
 glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joyce and be

Eb Eb/Bb Bb7 Eb

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.  
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.  
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

The first stanza of this hymn was written by Leslie Garrett, who was born in New Zealand and served as pastor of a church in western Australia. The other two stanzas are anonymous.

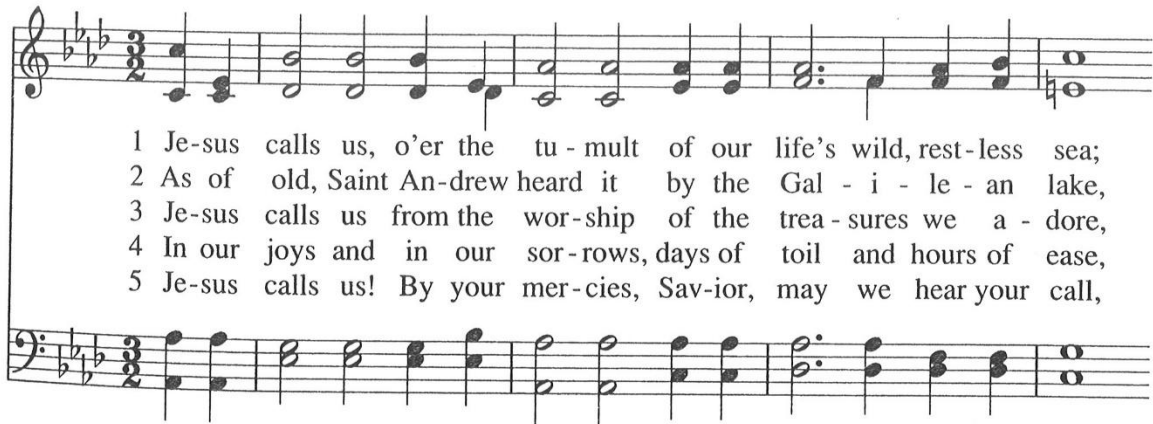
Tune: THIS IS THE DAY Irr.  
Les Garrett, 1967

# Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

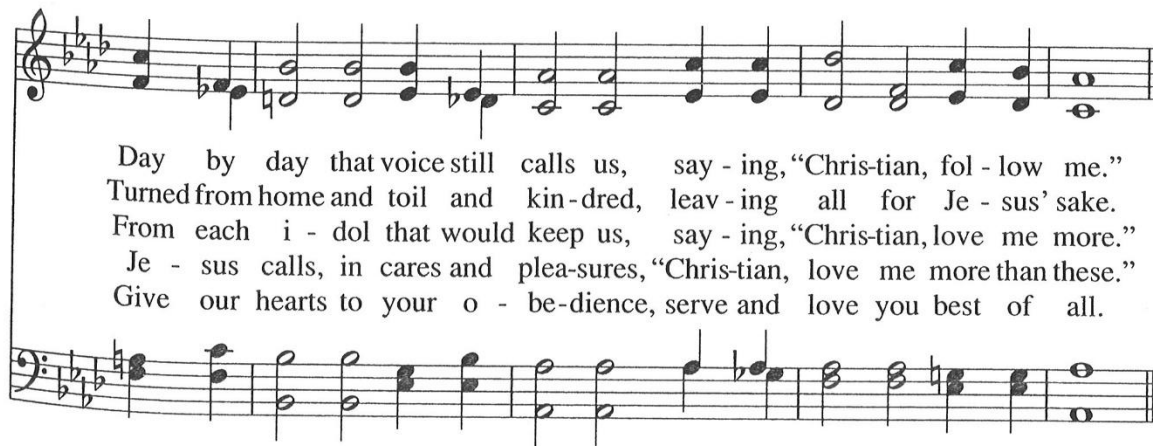
172

Cecil F. Alexander, 1852; alt.

Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; John 21:15



1 Je-sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest-less sea;  
2 As of old, Saint An-drew heard it by the Gal - i - le - an lake,  
3 Je-sus calls us from the wor-ship of the trea - sures we a - dore,  
4 In our joys and in our sor-rows, days of toil and hours of ease,  
5 Je-sus calls us! By your mer-cies, Sav-ior, may we hear your call,



Day by day that voice still calls us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, fol - low me."  
Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.  
From each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, love me more."  
Je - sus calls, in cares and plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."  
Give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.

*Cecil Alexander, who in Ireland wrote sacred verse to teach children the meaning of the catechism and liturgy, designated this poem for St. Andrew's Day. Many years later Galilee was composed for this text by an English organist, William Jude.*

Tune: GALILEE 8.7.8.7.  
William H. Jude, 1887  
Alternate setting: ST. ANDREW

## Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

537

*Francis Albert Rollo Russell, 1893; alt.*

1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your  
 2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can  
 3 Of - fer oth - ers hope and joy, and God's  
 4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that

prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the  
 help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing  
 wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble  
 doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - reft of

true, raise your work and life a - new.  
 light, strength - en them to do the right.  
 zeal, learn - ing all God's will to feel.  
 fear, born in heaven and ra - diant here.

*Francis Albert Rollo Russell was a writer on scientific subjects and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. This hymn was first published in the Pilgrim Hymnal (1904). The tune originated with a text used for the Feast of the Holy Innocents.*

Tune: INNOCENTS 7.7.7.7.  
 The Parish Choir, 1850