



**CENTRAL ST MATTHEW**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
*Bringing New Orleans Together*

**Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**August 2<sup>nd</sup> | 10 am**



**“Bring Them Here!”**  
Rev. Peter Scie

Central St. Matthew United Church of Christ

Order of Service

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 2, 2026

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(At the asterisk\*, all who are able, please stand. Congregation responses are in **bold**)

**Ring of the Bells**

**Prelude**

*“Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound”*

arr. Mark Hayes

**Lighting of Candles**

Acolyte

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship**

Norman Robinson

Leader: Jesus sees the hungry, the hurting, and those searching for hope.

**People: Christ meets them with compassion.**

Leader: Jesus calls us not to send people away, but to share what we have.

**People: We bring our gifts, our love, and our willingness.**

Leader: There is room in this community and room at Christ’s table.

**People: Let us worship the One who welcomes, feeds, and includes us all.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

NCH #277

**\*Invocation**

**Compassionate God, gather us into your loving presence. Open our hearts to receive your liberating Word and open our eyes to see the needs around us. Bless the gifts we bring, strengthen us for service, and teach us to welcome others as Christ has welcomed us. May our worship become action, our faith become public witness, and our love become nourishment for the world. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

The Psalter

Psalms 145:8–9, 14–21

The Epistle

Matthew 14:13–21

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Children’s Sermon**

*“Don’t Send Them Away!”*

Rev. Peter Scie

*(All the children are invited to come forward as all sing)*

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.**

**Water, God’s Word, bread & cup, prayer & song: This is where children belong.**

## Call to Reconciliation

There are times when we recognize the needs of others but choose distance instead of compassion. There are times when we wait for someone else to act, remain silent when we should speak, and fail to invite others into the love and community we have received. Trusting in God's abundant grace, let us confess together.

## Unison Prayer of Confession

**Merciful God, forgive us when we send people away rather than welcoming them closer. Forgive us when we focus on what we lack instead of offering what we have. Forgive us when we receive your love but fail to share it, when we enjoy the blessings of community but neglect to invite others in. Renew our compassion, strengthen our courage, and make us willing participants in your work of justice, healing, and liberation. Amen.**

## Silence is Kept

## Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: Christ does not send us away. Christ welcomes us, forgives us, and invites us to begin again. We are loved, restored, and empowered to share that same grace with others.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## \*Passing of Peace

Please turn to your neighbor and say "The Peace of Christ be with you," and respond by saying, "And also with you."

## \*Pulpit Hymn

*"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"*

TWFS #2223

## Sermon

**"Bring Them Here!"**

Rev. Peter Scie

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Call to Communion

The Words of Institution

The UCC Statement of Faith

Insert

The Distribution of the Bread and Cup

Special Music

*"This Little Light of Mine"*

arr Calvin Taylor

*All are welcome at the table!*

## The Prayer of the Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

## The Offering

Offertory Sentence

Matthew 5:16

**"Your light must shine before others so that they may see your good acts and give praise to your Abba God in heaven."**

Offertory

“Center of My Joy”

by R. Smallwood  
Cover Jusilver

\*Doxology

NCH #781

**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.**

\*The Closing Hymn

“Guide My Feet”

AAHH #131

**Carrying of the Light into the World**

Acolyte

\*Parting Hymn

“Bind Us Together”

TFWS #2226

*(Please join the Circle of Friendship)*

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.**

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.**

**There is only one God, there is only one king. There is only one body.**

**That is why we sing. Bind us together...**

\*Benediction

**Organ Postlude**

“Be Still My Soul”

by J. Sibelius  
arr Cindy Berry

*Altar Flowers are given in Memory of Pearline Culbert  
by Alvertha and Autsin Penny*

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**Illustrations by Emma Harlan**