



CENTRAL ST MATTHEW
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 11th | 10 am



**“IMAGINATION &
TRANSFORMATION”**

Rev. Peter Scie

Outreach and Missions Sunday

BRINGING NEW ORLEANS TOGETHER

Central St. Matthew United Church of Christ
Order of Service

Season of Pentecost

October 11, 2026

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

Ringling of the Bells

Prelude

“Jesus Loves Me”

arr. Lorie Line

Lighting of Candles

Acolyte

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Al Eickelmann

Leader: Rejoice in God always; again, we say, rejoice.

People: God is near, and we gather in hope.

Leader: Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is gracious and worthy of praise

People: We will set our hearts and minds on these things.

Leader: God calls us to imagine a world shaped by justice, dignity, peace, and love.

People: And God calls us to participate in its transformation.

Leader: Come, people of God, let us worship with hope, courage, and holy imagination.

ALL: Let us worship God together.

***Opening Hymn**

“This Is the Day”

AAHH #108

***Invocation**

Holy and Loving God, we gather in your presence with open hearts and hopeful spirits. Awaken our imagination so that we may see beyond the brokenness of the present and envision the world you call us to help create. Renew our minds, strengthen our faith, and give us courage to think on what is true, honorable, just, compassionate, and life-giving. May this time of worship transform us so that we may become faithful participants in your work of justice, liberation, peace, and love. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Margene Minor

The Psalter

Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23

The Epistle:

Philippians 4:1-9

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Children's Sermon

Carol Etter

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

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread & cup, prayer & song: This is where children belong.**

Call to Reconciliation

God invites us to bring our whole selves into the light of grace. We come acknowledging that there are times when we have imagined a better world but failed to act, desired justice but remained silent, and prayed for transformation while resisting change within ourselves.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess together.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have too often accepted the world as it is rather than working toward the world as it can be. We have allowed fear, comfort, prejudice, and indifference to limit our imagination and our action. We have spoken of justice while sometimes remaining silent in the face of injustice. We have spoken of love while failing to honor the dignity of every person. Forgive us, O God. Transform our thinking, reshape our hearts, and renew our commitment to the way of Jesus. Give us courage to imagine boldly, act faithfully, and participate fully in the work of liberation, healing, reconciliation, and love. Amen.

Silence is Kept

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: God's grace is greater than our failures, and God's mercy meets us again and again. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and invited to begin again. So receive this grace, walk in hope, and live as people being transformed for the transformation of the world. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Passing of Peace

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

*Pulpit Hymn

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

AAHH #451

Sermon

"Imagination and Transformation"

Rev. Peter Scie

The Prayer of The People and the Lord's Prayer

The Offering

Offertory Sentence

Proverbs 3:27

"Don't refuse a kindness to those who deserve it when it is in your power to do it."

Offertory

"In the Garden"

arr. Peggy Duquesnel

***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**

“How Great Thou Art”

AAHH #148

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

“You’ll Never Walk Alone”

arr. James Michael Stevens

Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God

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