



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 21, 2020

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Hesperus

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Katie Miller

***Greeting and Passing of the Peace**

"The Peace of God be with you."

In Unison: **Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

** Let us rise in body or spirit.*

Call to Worship

Jenny Pfeifer, liturgist

Giver of life, thank you for soil in which new life awakens. Thank you for the smell of freshly tilled earth and the beauty of a cleanly cut furrow.

Help us to be good stewards of the land.

As we tend to your work, may our efforts be to your glory – providing food for the hungry, beauty for our souls, and healing for the sick.

Help us to be kind and loving neighbors.

As we strive for justice and peace, ground us in your love and compassion.

Help us to embody the divine image within us.

***Processional Hymn**

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

GOD

22

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

Ps. 68:4, 32; Ps. 105

Joachim Neander, 1680
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

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1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -
 2 Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -
 3 Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for, all your suc -
 4 Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -

a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -
 rec - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from
 cess - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -
 mend - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their

plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad - some re - joi - ce - or - gan and
 sin - ful de - jec - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are
 cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly
 notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er

trum - pet and voice - join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - tion.
 al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - tion?
 strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.
 keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - ing.

Joachim Neander was a dedicated, caring pastor of the Reformed Church in Düsseldorf, Germany. This was the most

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.
Erneuerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665
Adapt. and harm. William S. Bennett, 1863

***Invocation**

Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessings fall upon our seeds and bulbs, our hands and tools, our soil, our potted plants, our gardens, and our farms. Bless our labor with rain and sunshine, that new life might spring up, that we might be truly at one with the integrity of all creation. Convict us as stewards of your magnificent garden to cry out when it is being abused and misused, to stand firm in our conviction to be your appointed custodians. This we pray as your humble servants and stewards of this amazing planet. Amen.

***Gloria**

Black Hymnal, No. 759

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Conversation with the Children

Psalm Lesson

Psalm 103:1-18

Word in Music

Holy Manna
Bell Choir

arr. Bouma

First Testament Lesson

Genesis 4:1-16

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God within us,
For the Word of God among us,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A Challenge and a Choice

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

*** Hymn**

Lead Us from Death to Life

Lead Us from Death to Life

2 John 1:3; Isa. 2:2-4

Refrain, Satish Kuma
Stanzas, Marty Haugen, 198

Refrain C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

spair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm7/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

to Stan:

→ Last time,

581 cont.

Dm7 G Em7 Am

Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your
 So man-y lone-ly hearts, so man-y bro-ken lives, long-ing for
 Let jus-tice ev-er roll, let mer-cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus-tice roll, let
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C to Refrain

mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.

Text for the refrain of this hymn is known as the "World

TUNE: WORLD PEACE PRAYER

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

Oh God, you call us to be full of joyful confidence as we make the world with you. But anxious doubt often burdens us and blocks our witness to your good news. We may be discouraged, tired of waiting for a future that seems impossible. Too often, our resolve fails, and we give up. And we fail to cultivate the spirit of peace in our own lives. Have mercy on us, O God, and forgive us.

***Words of Assurance**

God desires to see broken relationships restored and has heard our prayer. In the name of Jesus the Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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, forever. Amen.

Offertory

Alles ist an Gott Segen

***Hymn of Dedication**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Offertory Prayer**

Holy God, bless these gifts we give today. And grow our hearts and our hopes in your love. We want to be worthy of your work in this world. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

Now Is the Time Approaching

Now Is the Time Approaching

609

Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859; alt.

Jer. 33:14-16; Isa. 11:6-9; 61:11

1 Now is the time ap - proach - ing, by proph - ets long fore - told,
 2 Let all that now di - vides us re - move and pass a - way,
 3 O long - ex - spect - ed dawn - ing, come with your cheer - ing ray!

when all shall dwell to - geth - er, se - cure and man - i - fold.
 like mists of ear - ly morn - ing be - fore the blaze of day.
 Yet shall the prom - ise beck - on and lead us not a - stray.

Let war be learned no long - er, let strife and tu - mult cease,
 Let all that now u - nites us more sweet and last - ing prove,
 O sweet an - tic - i - pa - tion! It cheers the watch - ers on

all earth a bless - ed gar - den that God shall tend in peace.
 a clos - er bond of un - ion. in bless - ed lands of love.
 to pray, and hope, and la - bor till Christ's new realm is come.

Jane Laurie Borthwick's text titled "Anticipation of Heaven" was published in her *Thoughts for Thoughtful Hours* (1859). George J. Webb, American organist and music publisher, originally wrote this music for a smaller organ. "Tie down the look of heaven."

Tune: WEBB 7.6.7.6.D.
 George J. Webb, 1837

***Benediction**

Benediction Response

Bouma

May you hear laughter in the wind. May you see hope in the light.
May you find courage in your faith. May you know joy in your God.

Postlude

Allein Gott in der Hoh

Open & Affirming Statement

In our ongoing quest for hearts that open, minds that understand,
and lives that serve, we welcome into our fellowship, membership, leadership, and employment,
all people, regardless of abilities, race, gender, sexual orientation, or any God-given characteristic.

Announcements

June 21, 2020

Prayers: *Audrey Malena*, in hospice and declining.

Chancel flowers and decorations: sponsored this month by *Norma & Richard Le Clerc*.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Randy Solberg, Lucy Franks Wanzenried, Sierra Williams, Carolyn Ladwig, and Audrey Malena*.

FirstForum: 3 p.m. on Zoom. *Education Issues*, led by *Garret Higginbotham*.

Activities for the Coming Week, June 22 – June 27

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42.

Monday: staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Vespers, 8 p.m. on FaceBook Live

Saturday: Covid Forum, 3 p.m., *Technology*, led by *Zach Zaiss*.

Sunday, June 28

Worship: 10:30 a.m. on YouTube

FirstForum: 3 p.m. on Zoom. *Pathways to Decarbonization*, led by *Lisa Olson* and *Craig Moody* from OPPD. They will discuss sustainability efforts during the pandemic and their Pathways to Decarbonization initiative as they head towards their goal of net zero carbon by 2050

FirstYouth: Zoom, 8 p.m.

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