



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

EASTER SERIES: LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Psalm 42

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

Bonnie Austin, liturgist

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;

God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

"Be still, and know that I am God!"

***Processional Hymn**

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Black Hymnal, No. 7

OLD HUNDRETH

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

7

William Kethe, 1561

Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992

Ps. 100

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
2 Know that there is one God, in - deed, who
3 En - ter the sa - cred gates with praise, with
4 Pro - claim a - gain that God is good, whose

out your faith with cheer - ful voice; De - light in God whose
fash - ions us with - out our aid, Who claims us, gives us
joy ap - proach the tem - ple walls. Ex - tol and bless our
mer - cy is for - ev - er sure. Whose truth at all times

praise you tell, whose pres - ence calls you to re - joice.
all we need, whose ten - der care will nev - er fade.
God al - ways as peo - ple whom the Spir - it calls.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Old Hundredth is perhaps the best known and most widely used of all psalm tunes. It came into English use in 1561 with Kethe's paraphrase of Psalm 100 and has been associated with it ever since.

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH L.M.
Attrib. to Louis Bourgeois (c. 1510-c. 1561)
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551

*Invocation

Ever-gracious God who makes a way out of no way, we celebrate life in the Spirit.

You have made us strong and faithful servants of Christ. You fill us with courage and hope and invite us to share in the costs and joys of discipleship. You promise us splendor and beauty in this life and in the world to come. Meet us here, we pray. 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

Contemporary Reading

Living With the News

W.S. Merwin

Word in Music

Christ Be My Song

Lyn & Stephen Bouma, duet

New Testament Lesson

Acts 7:55-8:3

Pew Bible, Page 118

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

In Adversity

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

* Hymn

Faith of the Martyrs

Black Hymnal, No. 381

ST. CATHERINE L.M.

Faith of the Martyrs 381
Frederick W. Faber, 1849; alt

1 Faith of the mar - tyrs. liv - ing still in spite of
 2 Mar - tyrs con - fined in pris - ons bleak were still in
 3 Faith of the mar - tyrs! We will love both friend and
 4 Faith of the mar - tyrs! Faith and prayer shall long out -

dun - geon, fire, and sword; O how our hearts beat high with
 heart and con - science free; and no less blessed will be our
 foe in peace or strife; and sow the seeds of hope and
 live sin's ty - ran - ny; and through the truth that comes from

joy, when we re - call their faith's re - ward:
 fate if we, like them, live faith - ful - ly:
 faith by strength - ening word and fear - less life:
 God all hu - man - kind shall then be free:

Refrain
 Faith of the mar - tyrs. liv - ing faith! We would be true in life and death.

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

Holy God, from generation to generation you call forth faithful people to be willing servants of truth. We pray to avoid the times of trial, but that often isn't enough. We also need to pray for strength and confidence to face the challenges that come with uncertainty. Forgive us, God, when our vision is limited and our trust is feeble. Make us strong like Stephen, so that we may rejoice in your unending grace even in adversity. In Christ we pray. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

Do not let your hearts be troubled, but share instead in Stephen's vision of the heavens opened and Christ standing at the right hand of God. This glorious vision of hope is for all of us, for we are forgiven of all that separates us from the Holy One. Blessed be God, the giver of life, and blessed be God's people, who rejoice in Christ.

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

Interlude

***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**

Thank you, Holy God, for the abundant life we enjoy. For the relationships that nurture us. For the blessings that support us. May everything we give here today help to meet human needs. Extend our outreach beyond our vision. In these ways we offer praise to you. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

I Love to Tell the Story

Black Hymnal, No. 522

HANKEY

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat
 4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

Of Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love,
 than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet,
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do,
 be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word,
 will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

522 con't.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry
 I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.

***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

Sing Joyfully!

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

May 10, 2020

Prayers: for the *Bahnke Family*, on the death of *Don Bahnke; Audrey Malena*, now in hospice.

Joys: *Alexandra Miniard & Jamar Craddock*, celebrating the birth of *Athena Elizabeth*, proud grandparents are *Kathy & Daniel Lockard*, proud great great grandmother is *Kathy Felger*; the *Shee Lweh family* has been accepted by Habitat and will receive a house sometime in the coming months.

Chancel flowers and decorations: sponsored this month by friends and family of First Central. Thanks to *Bud Cassidy* for the loan of his beautiful painting!

Happy Birthday this week: to *Ashley Villatoro, Mike Godfrey, Barb Dietrich, and Don Riginbach*.

Fair Trade Coffee: sponsors this month are *Jeannie Bates, John & Nancy Schalles*.

FIRSTKids: 1 p.m. on Zoom. Kids through sixth grade.

Activities for the Coming Week, May 11 – May 16

Lectionary Readings: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21.

Monday: Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study.
Eves, 7 p.m. Zoom.

Tuesday: Council, 7 p.m., Zoom

Wednesday: Bible study, 3 p.m. on Zoom
Pre-K, K Sunbeams, 6 p.m., Zoom.
FirstYouth will not be held.

Thursday: Book Club, 7 p.m., Zoom

Sunday, May 17

Worship: 10:30 a.m. on YouTube

FIRSTKids: 1 p.m. on Zoom. Kids through sixth grade.

First Forum: 3 p.m. on Zoom. *Biblical Israel*, led by *Deb Kirwan*.

Graduation Sunday: if you or a family member are graduating this spring, please email Katie@firstcentral.org. and let her know!

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

