



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 14, 2020

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Lantana

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

Cherie Ferber, liturgist

We celebrate that God is with us today.

We find refuge and strength as we gather.

The Most High lives in us and among us.

The whole universe is God's dwelling place.

We have come to hear what God would have us do.

We seek the courage to do what God intends.

***Processional Hymn**

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens 556

Catherine Cameron, 1967

Gen. 5:1-2; Isa. 42:5-9

1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
 2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
 3 As each far hor - i - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new,

Flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;
 Known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
 Chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you.

We, your chil - dren, in your like-ness, share in-ven-tive powers with you;
 Probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined power,
 May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise, each en-deav-or, well be - gun;

Great Cre - a - tor, still cre - a - ting, show us what we yet may do.
 Fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
 Great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Catherine Cameron, a professor of social psychology in California, wrote this text in 1967 with Harold's Austrian

Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D.
 William Mason 1895

***Invocation**

Holy One, come among us and make your presence known! Renew our strength, refresh our imaginations, and retool our weary efforts to carry your Peace into the world. Amaze us with your power to make all things new, and let us face your world with curiosity and hope. In the name of the One who leads us on the Way, Jesus, the Christ. 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 119:25-32

Word in Music

Katie Miller, soloist

First Testament Lesson

Genesis 2:5-3:24

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

Eyes Opened

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

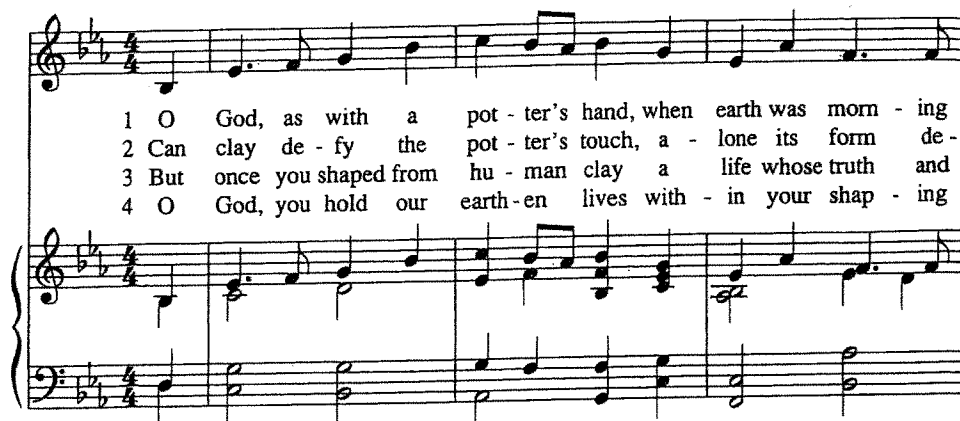
*** Hymn**

O God, as with a Potter's Hand

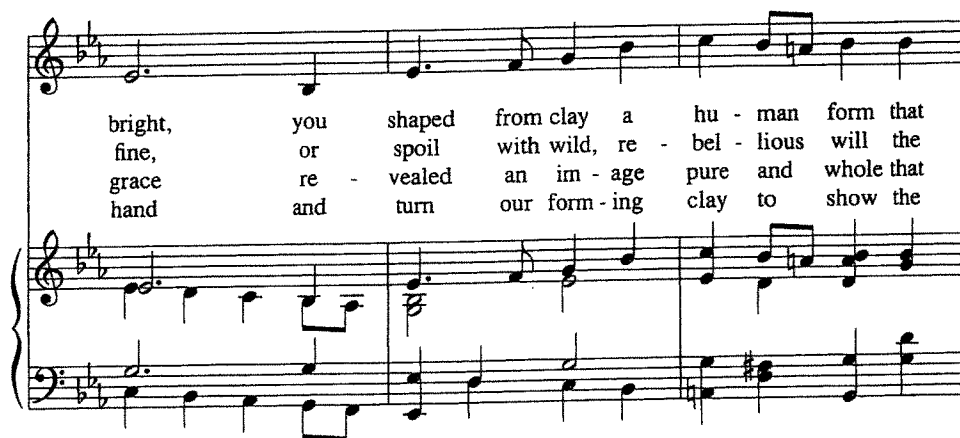
O God, as with a Potter's Hand

Gen. 2:4b-8; 1 Cor. 15:21-22; 2 Cor. 4:7-12

Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1991; rev. 1994



1 O God, as with a pot - ter's hand, when earth was morn - ing
 2 Can clay de - fy the pot - ter's touch, a - lone its form de -
 3 But once you shaped from hu - man clay a life whose truth and
 4 O God, you hold our earth - en lives with - in your shap - ing



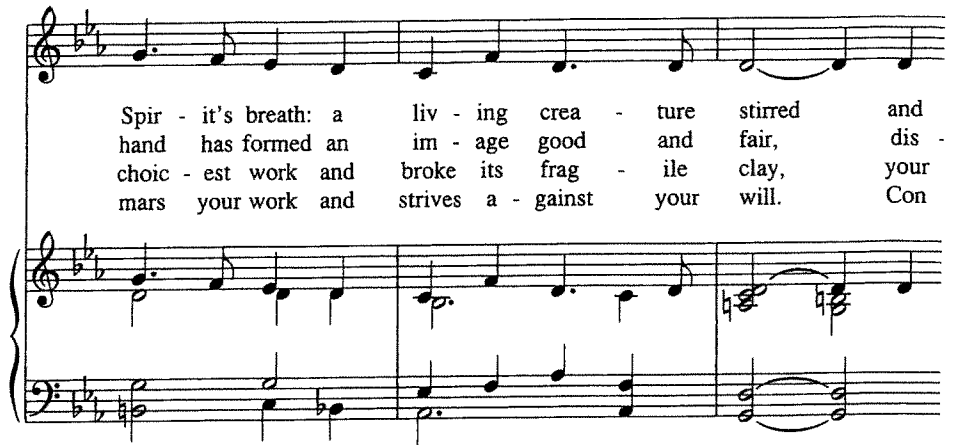
bright, you shaped from clay a hu - man form that
 fine, or spoil with wild, re - bel - lious will the
 grace re - vealed an im - age pure and whole that
 hand and turn our form - ing clay to show the



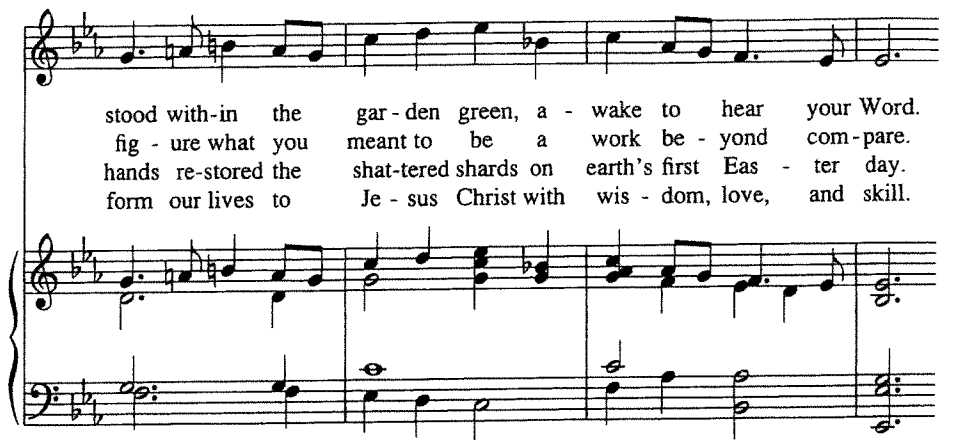
gave your eye de - light; You breathed in love your
 art - ist's true de - sign? Yet we, in whom your
 sin could not de - face. And when we seized your
 im - age you have planned. For - give the sin that



550 cont.



Spir - it's breath: a liv - ing crea - ture stirred and
hand has formed an im - age good and fair, dis -
choic - est work and broke its frag - ile clay, your
mars your work and strives a - gainst your will. Con



stood with-in the gar - den green, a - wake to hear your Word.
fig - ure what you meant to be a work be - yond com - pare.
hands re - stored the shat - tered shards on earth's first Eas - ter day.
form our lives to Je - sus Christ with wis - dom, love, and skill.

***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

Distress (Southern Harmony)

***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**

Gracious One, accept these gifts and multiply them so that the wonder of your love, justice, and peace might be known throughout the world. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

558

Curtis Beach, 1958, rev. 1980; alt.

Ps. 8

1 O how glo - rious, full of won - der is your name o'er all the earth,
 2 When we see your lights of heav - en, moon and stars, your power dis - played,
 3 You have set us in com - mu - nion with the won - ders of your hand,
 4 O how won - drous, O how glo - rious is your name in ev - ery land,

God, who wrought cre - a - tion's splen - dor, bring - ing suns and stars to birth!
 Who are we that you should love us, crea - tures that your hand has made?
 Made us : fly with ea - gle pin - ion, pil - grims o - ver sea and land.
 God, whose pur - pose shines be - fore us toward the goal that you have planned!

Rapt in rev - erence we a - dore you, mar - veling at your mys - tic ways.
 Born of earth, yet full of yearn - ing, mix - ture strange of good and ill,
 Soar - ing spire and ru - ined cit - y, these our hopes and fail - ures show.
 Yours the will our hearts are seek - ing, con - scious of our hu - man need.

Hum - bly now we bow be - fore you, lift - ing up our hearts in praise.
 From your ways so of - ten turn - ing, yet your love does seek us still.
 Teach us more of hu - man pit - y, that we in your im - age grow.
 Spir - it in our spir - it speak - ing, make us yours, O God. in - deed.

*United Church of Christ minister Curtis Beach submitted this hymn to the editorial committee of the *Psalm Hymns* (1969).*

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.

Words Copyright 1958; renewed 1980, 1991 by the Estate of Curtis Beach.

***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

Fanfare

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 14, 2020

Joys: a task force is being formed to guide reopening the church!

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

Happy Birthday this week: to *Alex Hotchkiss, Jan Rigginbach, Jonah Spencer, and Fred Nielsen*.

FirstForum: 3 p.m. on Zoom. *Election Issues*, led by *Michael Cich Jones*.

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom

Activities for the Coming Week, June 15 – June 20

*Lectionary Readings: Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17;
Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39.*

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

Wednesday: Bible study, 3 p.m. on Zoom
Vespers, 8 p.m. on FaceBook Live

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

Sunday, June 21

Worship: 10:30 a.m. on YouTube

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

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

