



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 25, 2020

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Pastorale for Flutes

D'Aquin

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

Tara Obner, liturgist

The day breaks

And God does not let us go.

The hour calls

And God does not let us go.

The evening falls

And God holds us fast.

Let us turn to God in worship

God, who never turns from us.

***Processional Hymn**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - - ful - ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody

***Invocation**

God, you see us. You see our struggles and our difficulties. You see our possibilities and our promise. For you are good and faithful. Today, come among us with encouragement and blessing. 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

Word in Music

Panis Angelicus
Stephen Bouma, soloist

Franck

First Testament Lesson

Genesis 45:4-11. 50:15-21

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

The Hidden Call of God

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

*** Hymn**

What a Covenant

NURTURE

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What a Covenant

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a *cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing
last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from
on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

***Prayer of Confession**

God, you are present to us, but we don't always feel it. You are good to us, but we sometimes fail to pay attention. There are things that we think and things that we do, that act to separate us from your goodness. Have mercy on me. Grant me your renewing forgiveness. Lead me on your paths of righteousness, and I shall delight in you and follow your guidance. Amen.

*** Assurance of Forgiveness**

The God who gives, gives all. The God who loves, loves all. The God who forgives, forgives all. Through Christ, our sins, every one of them, all 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

Christian Lyre

***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**

God of increase and bounty, Source of all good things: we offer these gifts as a portion of what you have given to us. May our act of giving bring about change--in our lives, in the lives we touch, and in the systems that harm. Amen.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion

As grain that was scattered on the hillside was gathered together and made into one loaf, so too, we, scattered at tables in our own homes, are bound together around Christ's table and become one. As grapes grown in the field are gathered together and pressed into wine, so too are we drawn together and pressed by our times to share a common lot and are transformed into Christ's self-giving love for all.

God be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God.

Give thanks to God.

It is right and good to give God thanks and praise.

Praise to you Divine Creator. Thank you for the gift of life, the beauty of nature, and your steadfast loving kindness. Praise to you Divine Redeemer. Thank you for sharing our human existence, from birth through death to everlasting life you have shown us a way worth emulating, bringing healing and hope to those most in need. Praise to you Divine Sustainer. Thank you for the vision to see beyond the immediate, a calm in the midst of storm, the strength to build an ever expanding community and the courage to bring about any change necessary within our lives. Today we join in communion with all the saints in every time and age to sing your glory:

From *Deutsche Messe* by Franz Schubert; adapt. by Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

1. power and might. 2. might.

Heav - en and earth are full,
Bless - ed is he who comes

full in the of name of your glo - ry. Ho -
Lord.

san - na in the high - est, ho -

san - na in the high - est. (.)
(.)

Words of Institution and Invitation to the Table

The Bread and the Cup Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts

JUSTICE AND PEACE

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Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts

William M. Vories, 1908; alt.

1 Let there be light, O God of hosts!
2 With - in our pas - sioned hearts in - still
3 Give us the peace of sens - es clear
4 Let woe and waste of war - fare cease,

Let there be wis - dom on the earth!
the calm that ends all strain and strife;
to know our neigh - bors' good our own;
that use - ful la - bor yet may build

Let broad hu - man - i - ty have birth!
Make us your min - is - ters of life;
To hope and suf - fer not a - lone,
Its homes with love and laugh - ter filled!

Let there be deeds, in - stead of boasts!
purge us from lusts that curse and kill!
bond - ed in love that con - quers fear!
God, give your way - ward chil - dren peace!

William Vories, founder of the vast, interdenominational Omi Mission in Japan, wrote this hymn as a response to the rising threat of German militarism in 1908. It exemplifies the vision of world peace and unity Vories strove to promote through his lifelong missionary work.

Tune: PENTECOST L.M.
William Boyd, 1864

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Recessional Hymn

For the Healing of the Nations

JUSTICE AND PEACE

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For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
earth be - banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

***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

Allegro Deciso

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

August 2, 2020

Prayers: *Margaret Wilmeth*, recovering from hip surgery; *Kathy McConnell*, having another hip replacement Monday.

Chancel flowers and decorations: provided this month by members.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Greg Switzer, Janet Acker, Melanie Naughtin, Kamaal Patterson, Dana Raabe, Amy Druliner*, and *Barb Switzer*. *If you have a birthday that isn't listed, that means it isn't in the church database. Please email or call the office to update your records.*

Thank you: to *Jim Harmon* for leading us in worship this morning.

Parrish School Supply Drive: Please bring donations to the glass entry on 36th St. between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. by **August 4th**. *Barb Switzer* will assemble the backpacks with supplies and deliver them to the school. Items needed are: (1) 3-ring binder (smaller than 2"), loose-leaf paper for the binder, set of dividers for the binder, (3) report folders with pockets, (3) spiral notebooks, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, erasers, ruler, highlighter marker, glue stick, pack of hand sanitizer wipes.

Food Pantry: Donations will be accepted at church – please call first. Checks may be mailed to First Central with “pantry” in the memo line.

Activities for the Coming Week, August 3 – August 8

*Lectionary Readings: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 55:1-5;
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21.*

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

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

Sunday, August 9

Worship: 10:30 a.m. on YouTube.

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

