



# First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 19, 2020

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

## Prelude

Christians We Have Met to Worship  
*Pat Miller and Dave Shipley*

*Arr. Mark Hayes*

## 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

Scott Sumpter, liturgist

God calls us out of places known and secure.

**God invites us into a living, trusting relationship.**

God is constantly offering new opportunities to us.

**God continues to bring new worlds into being.**

Let us worship God with our whole beings.

**Restore our faith that we might live with courage and hope.**

## \*Processional Hymn

The God of Abraham Praise

# Yigdal Eionim Chai (The God of Abraham Praise)

Gen. 12:1; 17:15-16; Exod. 3:14; Isa. 44:6; Rev. 4:8

Moses Maimonides, 12th century  
Versification attrib. to Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400  
Transl. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1884; alt.

1 Yig - dal e - lo - him chai v' - yish - ta - bach,  
1 The God of A - braham praise, all prais - es to God's name,  
2 God's spir - it free - ly flows, high surg - ing where it will;  
3 God has e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;  
4 The God of Sar - ah praise, all prais - es to God's name,

nim - tza v' - ein eit el m' - tzi - u - to  
who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!  
God spoke of old in proph - et's word; that word speaks still.  
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.  
who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!

E - chad v' - ein ya - chid k' - yi - chu - do,  
The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;  
Es - tab - lished is God's law, and change - less it shall stand,  
All praise the liv - ing God! Ex - tol that hal - lowed name,  
The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;

ne - lam v' - gam ein sof l' - ach - du - to.  
the First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!  
deep writ - ten on the hu - man heart, in ev - ery land.  
who was, and is, and ev - er shall be still the same!  
the First the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!

## **\*Invocation**

In the clamor of voices demanding our attention, you call to us. From our settled condition, you open up new possibilities which require our commitment. We stand in awe before you, eager to live by faith, giving thanks for your blessings. Speak to us today; your people are listening. 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**

### **Prophetic Lesson**

Isaiah 51:1-8

### **Word in Music**

How Great Thou Art

*Arr. Joel Raney*

### **First Testament Lesson**

Genesis 12:1-9

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**

Travails of Contingency

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

## **\* Hymn**

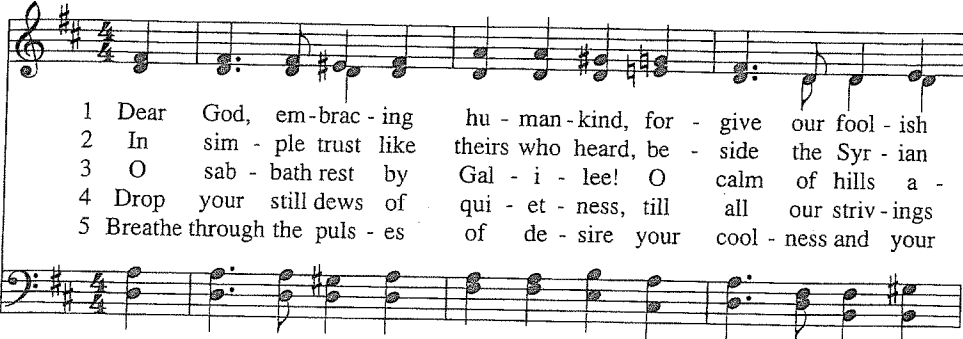
Dear God, Embracing Humankind

# Dear God, Embracing Humankind

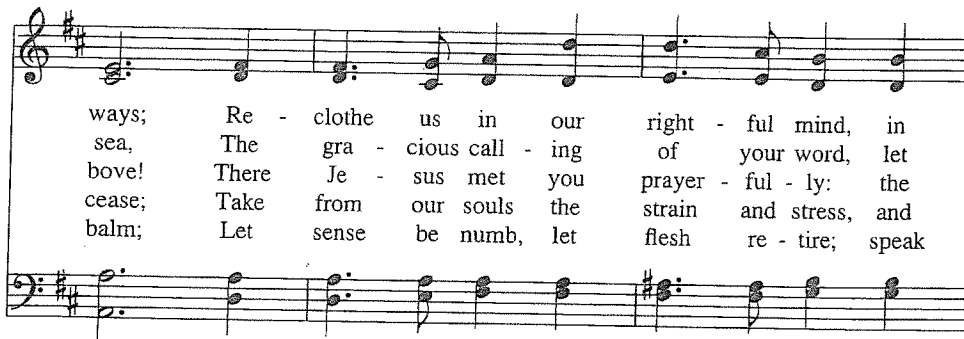
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John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; alt.

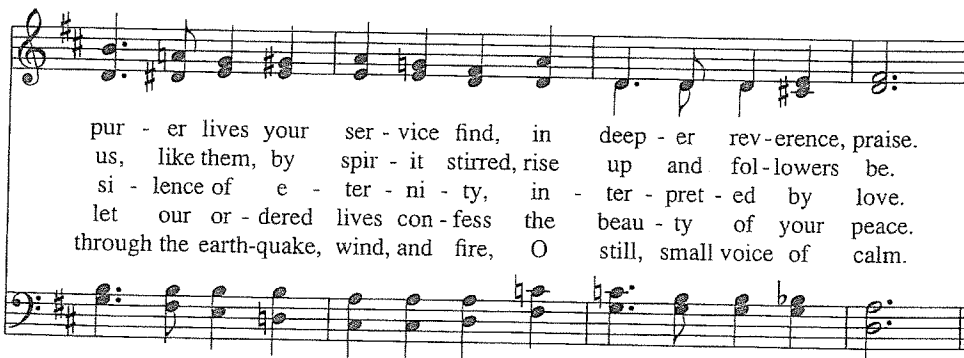
Mark 1:16-20; Matt. 14:22-23; 1 Kings 19:11-12



1 Dear God, em-brac - ing hu - man-kind, for - give our fool - ish  
 2 In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, be - side the Syr - ian  
 3 O sab - bath rest by Gal - i - lee! O calm of hills a -  
 4 Drop your still dews of qui - et - ness, till all our striv - ings  
 5 Breathe through the puls - es of de - sire your cool - ness and your



ways; Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind, in  
 sea, The gra - cious call - ing of your word, let  
 bove! There Je - sus met you prayer - ful - ly: the  
 cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, and  
 balm; Let sense be numb, let flesh re - tire; speak



pur - er lives your ser - vice find, in deep - er rev - erence, praise.  
 us, like them, by spir - it stirred, rise up and fol - lowers be.  
 si - lence of e - ter - ni - ty, in - ter - pret - ed by love.  
 let our or - dered lives con - fess the beau - ty of your peace.  
 through the earth-quake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

## **\*Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

God of justice and righteousness, we believe that your ways are far more fulfilling than any we can devise, yet we sometimes shrink from where you lead. Wean us away from our fascination with the false values that tempt us. Forgive us our vain pursuits, and draw us closer to you, we pray. Amen.

## **\*Words of Assurance**

Rejoice! For God gives us life and calls into existence possibilities we could not imagine. We are forgiven, we are set free, we are blessed.

## **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**

Softly and Tenderly

*Arr. Joel Raney*

## **\*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 God, filled by your generosity to us, may we be generous to others. We offer back to you a portion of what we have been given. Accept these gifts, as we commit ourselves to you. Amen.

## **\*Recessional Hymn**

You Are the Seed

# Sois la Semilla (You Are the Seed)

Matt. 13:24-30, 33, 36-43; 5:13-16; 28:18-20

Cesáreo Gabarín, 1979; alt.

Transl. Raquel Gutiérrez-Achón and Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987; alt.

Unison D A7 Bm D

1 Sois la se - mi - lla que ha de cre - cer, sois es -  
 1 Sois la ma - ña - na que vuel - ve a na - cer sois es -  
 1 You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a  
 1 You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the

G G6 A7 D A

tre - lla que ha de bri - llar. Sois le - va - du - ra, sois  
 pi - ga que em - pie - za a gra - nar. Sois a - gui - jón y ca -  
 star that will shine through the day; You are the yeast and a  
 wheat that will bear gold - en grain; You are a sting and a

Bm G D G6 A7 D

gra - no de sal, an - tor - cha que de - be a - lum - brar.  
 ri - cia a la vez, tes - ti - gos que voy a en - viar.  
 small grain of salt, a bea - con to glow in the night.  
 soft, gen - tle touch, my wit - ness - es wher - e'er you go.

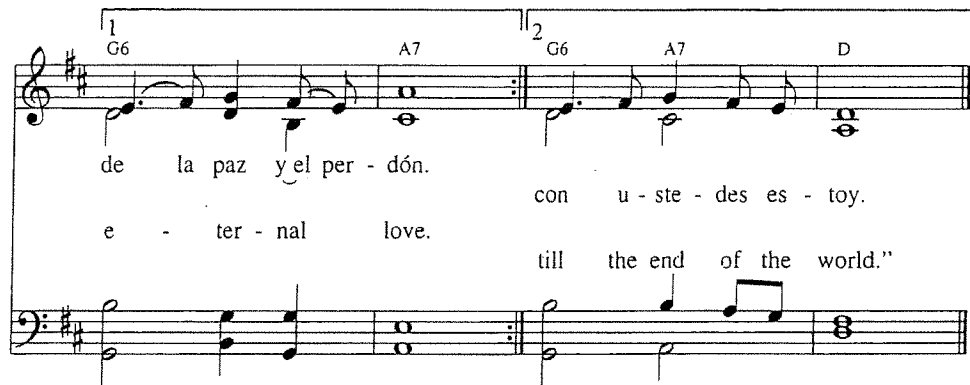
Estribillo (Refrain) G A7

A D

Id, a - mi - gas, por el mun - do, a - nun - cian - do el a -  
 Sed, a - mi - gos, mis tes - ti - gos de mi re - su - rrec -  
 Go, my friends, go to the world, pro - claim - ing love to  
 Be, my friends, a loy - al wit - ness, from the dead I a -



mor, men - sa - je - ras de la vi - da,  
 ción. Id lle - van - do mi pre - sen - cia;  
 all, mes - sen - gers of my for - giv - ing peace,  
 rose; "Lo, I'll be with you for - ev - er,



de la paz y el per - dón. con u - ste - des es - toy.  
 e - ter - nal love. till the end of the world."

2 Sois u-na lla-ma  
 que ha de en-cen-der  
 res-plan-do-res de fe y ca-ri-dad.  
 Sois los pas-to-res que han de lle-var  
 al mun-do por sen-das de paz.  
 Sois los a-mi-gos que qui-se es-co-ger,  
 sois pa-la-bra que in-ten-to es-par-cir.  
 Sois rei-no nue-vo  
 que em-pie-za a en-gen-drar  
 jus-ti-cia, a-mor y ver-dad.  
*Estrillo*

3 Sois fue-go y sa-bia  
 que vi-ne a tra-er,  
 sois la o-la que a-gi-ta la mar.  
 La le-va-du-ra pe-que-ña de a-yer  
 fer-men-ta la ma-sa del pan.  
 U-na ciu-dad no se pue-de es-con-der,  
 ni los mon-tes se han de o-cul-tar,  
 en es-tas o-bras que bus-can el bien,  
 el mun-do a Dios ha de ver.  
*Estrillo*

2 You are the flame that will bright-en  
 the way,  
 send-ing spar-kles of hope, faith,  
 and love;  
 you are the shep-herds  
 to lead the whole world  
 through val-leys and pas-tures of peace.  
 You are the friends that I chose for my-self,  
 the word that I want to pro-claim.  
 You are the cit-y that's built on a rock  
 where jus-tice and truth al-ways reign.  
*Refrain*

3 You are the life that will nur-ture the plant;  
 you're the waves in a tur-bu-lent sea;  
 yes-ter-day's yeast is be-gin-ning to rise,  
 a new loaf of bread it will yield.  
 There is no place for a cit-y to hide,  
 nor a moun-tain can cov-er its might;  
 may your good deeds  
 show a world in de-spair  
 a path that will lead all to God.  
*Refrain*

## **\*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**

Holy, Holy, Holy

*Arr. Joel Raney*

#### **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

**July 19, 2020**

**Prayers:** *Janet Kuehl* and family, on the death of her mother, *Jan Nurnberger*.

**Chancel flowers and decorations:** sponsored this month by *Mary & Randy Solberg, Marilyn Hammond, Tom & Colleen Syster*.

**Happy Birthday this week:** to *John Hill, Shirley Jensen, Gary McConnell, Jim Schalles, Skip Blazek, Tina Grossenstein, Dave Sharpe, Allison Beaman, and Luther MacNaughton*.

**Thank you:** to *Pat Miller* and *Dave Shipley* for sharing their musical gifts with us this morning while *Stephen* is on vacation.

### Activities for the Coming Week, July 20 – July 25

*Lectionary Readings: Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-126; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.*

**Monday:** staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.  
Vacation Bible School, 10 a.m. on Zoom. *Through Friday*.

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

### Sunday, July 26

**Worship:** 10:30 a.m. on YouTube. *Stephen Bouma* preaching.

*Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.*

