



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 16, 2020

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Cleansing Fountain

Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.

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

Laura Mitchell, liturgist

Today is dedicated to our God. Let this gathering place be a home for all people.

May God be gracious to us and bless us.

Let us give thanks and enjoy the blessings of God.

May God grant us understanding and courage.

May our faith grow beyond our doubts.

God brings us together in unity of purpose.

How good it is when people live together in unity.

*Processional Hymn

Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls

Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls

383

William G. Tarrant, 1892; alt.

Rev. 5:11-14

1 Come, let us join with faith-ful souls our song of faith to raise;
2 Faith - ful are all who love the truth and per - fect truth pro - claim,
3 And faith-ful are the gen - tle hearts to whom the power is given
4 O God of hosts, our faith re - new, and grant us, in your grace,

One fam - i - ly in heart are we, and one the God we praise.
Who stead-fast stand at God's right hand and glo - ri - fy God's name.
Of ev - ery hearth to make a home, of ev - ery home a heaven.
To join the songs sung by the saints in ev - ery time and place.

A leader of the Unitarian Church in England, William Tarrant edited a Unitarian weekly and for thirty-seven years ministered

*Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828*

*Invocation

Recreating God, draw us now into the community you intend for all people. Help us to listen and understand your word for us. Inspire us to share with one another. May we be open to your gifts and obedient to your call. Come to us now with healing 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

Psalm Lesson

Psalm 84

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

Regathering

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Musical Interlude

***Prayer of Confession**

Forgive us God. Show us how we have hurt one another and grant us the courage to seek forgiveness and reconciliation. Create in us a new life. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

Our thoughts and deeds are known to God, who is eager to forgive and lead us to new understandings. When we earnestly seek God's help, we are set free to discover new opportunities.

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

Land of Rest

Bell Choir

***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, you are our provider. We dedicate to your service our lives and these offerings from

your blessing and our labor. Work in us and through us to extend your love and care, here and around the world. Amen.

*Recessional Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

117

Georg Weissel, 1641

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1865; alt.

Ps. 24:7-10

1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo - rious Rul - er waits!
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, set a - part
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a - bide!
4 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin;

The Sov - ereign One is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
From earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
Let me your in - ner pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.
Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

Georg Weissel, a Lutheran pastor, served a church in Königsberg, East Prussia. He wrote some twenty hymns, most of them for the great festivals of the church year.

Tune: TRURO L.M.
Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

*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

In Christ There Is No East or West

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 16, 2020

Chancel flowers and decorations: provided this month by members.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Sue Arkfeld, Shelley Kiel, and Don Ferber*. 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.

Activities for the Coming Week, August 17 – August 22

*Lectionary Readings: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b;
1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33.*

- Monday:** staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday:** Vespers, 8 p.m. on FaceBook Live
- Thursday:** Ministry Support, 7 p.m., Zoom
Regathering Task Force, 7 p.m., Zoom

Sunday, August 23

Worship: 10:30 a.m. on YouTube, **or in-person!**

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