



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 23, 2020

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Lost in the Night

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

Daryl Malena, liturgist

Our help is from God, who made heaven and earth.
Come to worship the One who answers our prayers.
If God were not on our side, we could not live.
If God were not for us, we would be swept away.
We rejoice in God's love and faithfulness.
In thankfulness, we bring our joyous songs.
We are open to God's transforming Spirit.

*Processional Hymn

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Ps. 36:7-9

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe - ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

***Invocation**

God, your love never fails. Come to transform us. Work within and among us to renew our minds and build community. Nurse us into the health you intend for all your children. You are our help and our hope. 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

First Testament Lesson

Genesis 25:19-32

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

Blessing

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Musical Interlude

***Prayer of Confession**

Forgive us, O God. Show us how we have hurt one another and grant us courage to seek forgiveness and reconciliation. We bring the wounds of our common life to this time of confession that we may receive your healing. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

God is merciful to us and hears our prayers. Our thoughts and deeds are fully known to God, who is eager to forgive and to lead us to new understandings. 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

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky
Lyn & Stephen Bouma

*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

As you have blessed us, Dear God, we are eager to share. May we offer more than crumbs from
your table. May none be sent away. May all share in your abundant blessings. What we offer
today is only part of what we dedicate ourselves to do and to be that your reign of unity and
peace may come. Amen.

*Recessional Hymn

O Grant Us Light

DUKE STREET

O grant us light, that we may know wisdom that you alone can give, that truth may guide us as we
go, and virtue bless the lives we live.

O grant us light that we may find where error lurks in human lore, and turn to you our seeking
minds, and love your holy Word the more.

O grant us light, that we may learn how dead is life from you apart, how sure is joy for all who
turn to you an undivided heart.

O grant us light, when soon or late, all earthly scenes shall pass away, in you to find the open gate,
to deathless home and endless day.

*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 Thee is Gladness

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 23, 2020

Prayers: for *Jorden Carlson* (niece of Susan & David Fortina) & *Brooke Benecke*, grieving a second miscarriage.

Joys: *Will & Meg Sharpe*, celebrating the birth of *River Paul Sharpe* – proud grandparents are *Dave & Sara Sharpe*.

Chancel flowers and decorations: provided this month by members. Many thanks to *Michael Cich-Jones* for the beautiful Chancel display this summer!

Happy Birthday this week: to *Joanna Fisher, Laura Mitchell, Al Nelson, Paul Spence, Marilyn Hammond, Sara Sharpe, Phil Owen, and Jamie Rudd*. *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 24 – August 29

Lectionary Readings: Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 21-28.

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

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

Sunday, August 30

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

FirstYouth: 5:30 p.m. socially-distanced picnic at Obner State Park, 7607 Corby Circle.

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

