



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 30, 2020

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Chorale in G

Guilmant

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

Judy Bouma, 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 courage to do what God intends.

*Processional Hymn

Praise to the Living God

GOD

8

Praise to the Living God

Ps. 84:1-2

Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.

1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -

word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.

Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till
 God toils wher - e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And
 In these tu - mul - tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May

vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man - kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Curtis Beach, born into a family of several generations of ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Boston University School of Theology, and the University of Southern California. A minister in the United Church of Christ, Beach

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1868

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***Invocation**

God, you are made known to us in the rustling wind that blows,
in the blazing fire that does not consume,
in the face of the good,
in the deep of the unknown.

We meet you here. We accept your greeting. We welcome your inspiration.

We await the change you have in store for us.

Draw us in to you. Inhabit our spirits. Focus our attention.

Bring us to you – you who are already with us.

Help us to be as you would have us be.

Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
here and everywhere, now and always. Amen.

***Gloria**

Black Hymnal, No. 759

Glorify 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 32:22-31

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

Wrestling

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Musical Interlude

***Prayer of Confession**

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

Elevation in E minor

Guilmant

***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**

Receive these gifts, even our very lives for your service. Multiply them and our effort to meet the need. We are yours God, use us we pray to recreate the world. Amen.

***Recessional 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 Hauda's Austrian

Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D.
 William Mason, 1925

***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

Grand Choeur

Guilmant

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 30, 2020**

Joys: Mobarak & Hawa Khamis, along with big sister **Jannat**, celebrating the birth of baby girl **Jihan**!

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 **Mark Jefferson, Ben Little, Cathy Roller, Mary Guin Knoll, Margo Prentiss, Michael Pack,** and **Nick Staffend**. *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.*

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

Activities for the Coming Week, August 31 – September 5

*Lectionary Readings: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40;
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20.*

Monday: staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Stewardship meeting, 7 p.m., Zoom

Wednesday: Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom
Vespers, 8 p.m. on FaceBook Live

Sunday, September 6

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

Food Pantry: Donations will be accepted at church. Checks may be mailed to First Central with "pantry" in the memo line.

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

