



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 6, 2020

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Beach Spring

Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

*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

(from Psalm 149)

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song;

God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let us be glad and rejoice.

Let us praise God with dancing.

God takes pleasure in us and crowns us with victory.

Let us exult in glory; let us sing with joy.

Pat Lange, liturgist

*Processional Hymn

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

558

Curtis Beach, 1958, rev. 1980; alt.

Ps. 8

1 O how glo-rious, full of won-der is your name o'er all the earth,
 2 When we see your lights of heav-en, moon and stars, your power dis-played,
 3 You have set us in com-mu-nion with the won-ders of your hand,
 4 O how won-drous, O how glo-rious is your name in ev-ery land,

God, who wrought cre-a-tion's splen-dor, bring-ing suns and stars to birth!
 Who are we that you should love us, crea-tures that your hand has made?
 Made us : fly with ea-gle pin-ion, pil-grims o-ver sea and land.
 God, whose pur-pose shines be-fore us toward the goal that you have planned!

Rapt in rev-erence we a-dore you, mar-veling at your mys-tic ways.
 Born of earth, yet full of yearn-ing, mix-ture strange of good and ill,
 Soar-ing spire and ru-ined cit-y, these our hopes and fail-ures show.
 Yours the will our hearts are seek-ing, con-scious of our hu-man need.

Hum-bly now we bow be-fore you, lift-ing up our hearts in praise.
 From your ways so of-ten turn-ing, yet your love does seek us still.
 Teach us more of hu-man pit-y, that we in your im-age grow.
 Spir-it in our spir-it speak-ing, make us yours, O God, in-deed.

United Church of Christ minister Curtis Beach submitted this hymn to the editorial committee of the Bulletin (March 1958).

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.

Words Copyright 1958; renewed 1980, 1991 by the Estate of Curtis Beach.

***Invocation**

Today we remember your faithfulness and celebrate your vibrant presence with us, Loving God. We rejoice in the assurance that you take pleasure in us, that we are known by you, called by you, empowered by you to live in the spirit of Christ. Encounter us today with wonder. 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

Second Testament Lesson

Matthew 18:15-20

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

Encountering Christ

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Musical Interlude

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy One, we have not been faithful to your commands. We too often fail to listen to one another. Our disagreements can divide us, bringing pain and harm. Help us to put away quarreling, jealousy, and insult. Instead, shine through us with the radiance of grace, mercy, forgiveness, and reconciliation. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

God's healing, reconciling presence has come among us and dwells within us. Our openness to God's transforming love releases in us the potential for wholeness. As joyful followers of Jesus, we radiate beauty.

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

Wondering

Claire, Lyn, and 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**

May these gifts free your people, God of Grace. Unite us in a community of mutual caring in
which differences are resolved. Let your love shine through all our efforts to share your good
news, so that others may encounter you in us. This we pray, Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

Lead Us From Death to Life

Lead Us from Death to Life

2 John 1:3; Isa. 2:2-4

Refrain, Satish Kuma
Stanzas, Marty Haugen, 198

Refrain C C7 F G C G/B Am

Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth, from de -

Dm7 G C Dm7 C7/E C7 Dm7

spar to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to

G C/E E7 Am Dm7 G

love, from war to peace; let peace fill our hearts, let

Em Am Dm7 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

peace fill our world, let peace fill our u - ni - verse.

to Stan:



Last time,

581 cont.

Dm7 G Em7 Am

Still all the an-gry cries, still all the an-gry guns, still now your
 So man - y lone-ly hearts, so man - y bro-ken lives, long-ing for
 Let jus-tice ev - er roll, let mer - cy fill the earth, let us be -

Dm7 G7 C Am Dm7

peo-ple die, earth's sons and daugh-ters. Let jus-tice roll, let
 love to break in - to their an - guish. Come, teach us love,
 gin to grow in - to your peo - ple. We can be love,

E7 Am F D7/F# C/G G7 C to Refrain

mer - cy pour down, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of com - pas-sion.
 we can bring peace, we can still be your way of com - pas-sion.

Text for the refrain of this hymn is known as the "World

Tune: WORLD PEACE PRAYER

***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

Toccata Pontificale

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 September 6, 2020

Joys: *Mark & Lennie Jefferson*, celebrating their 62nd anniversary!

Chancel flowers and decorations: provided this month by members.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Marlene Roberts, Susan Schwerdtfeger, Ronda Spence, Scott Sumpter, and Zach Zaiss*. *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.*

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

Activities for the Coming Week, September 7 – September 12

Lectionary Readings: Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35.

Monday: Labor Day observed. Office closed.

Tuesday: Council, 7 p.m., Zoom

Wednesday: Adult Education, 5:45 p.m., Zoom
Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom
Vespers, 8 p.m. on FaceBook Live

Friday: Family Drive-In Movie Night, 8 p.m. Disney's "Onward." Back parking lot.

Sunday, September 13

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

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

