



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUTUMN THEME: GOSPEL ENCOUNTERS

September 27, 2020

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

O Du Meiner Liebe

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

Marian Fey, liturgist

adapted from Psalm 25

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation.

Good and upright is the Lord, who instructs us in the way.

The Lord leads the humble in what is right and teaches the us the way.

*Processional Hymn

Be Now My Vision

451

12/19/99

Be Now My Vision

Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.

10-15-95
8-4-96

Unison

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
now and for - ev - er, your child I will be.
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.
Traditional Irish melody

***Invocation**

God, the merciful, holy, blessed: Disturb us. Rouse us from our sleep. Lift us into consciousness of your presence. Change us, move us, mold us for the better; So that, at the sound of your voice, at the call of our name, we will never be the same. May our worship do this and so much more, in the name of Jesus. 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

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 21:23-32

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

The Way of Righteousness

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Musical Interlude

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

Disturb the habits of our sin, O God. Show us your ways. Highlight what we can change, and change what we cannot. Transform us, so that we can more fully participate in you. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

God is at work in you. God is alive in us. And all of our sins are forgiven. Amen.

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

Like a River

***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**

Today we empty ourselves of selfish ambitions, believing that the common good is of greater concern. We present ourselves in your service, in gratitude for all the blessings we have received. We reach out with helping hands, because we care about all those you love. We give, so that your work might be accomplished. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

Lord, I Want To Be a Christian

454

African-American spiritual

Deut. 6:5-6; 10:12-16

1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart,
3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Refrain

In my heart, In my heart, in my heart,
In my heart, in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

***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

Prelude and Fugue in G major

J.S. Bach

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 27, 2020

Prayers: *Jenny Pfeifer*, continuing to recover from surgery; *Bud Cassidy*, out of ICU and improving.

Joys: *Nancy Dugan*, celebrating the birth of a great-nephew!

Chancel flowers and decorations: provided this month by members.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Terry Beranek, Sam Pfeifer, Alex Gross, Terry Diel, Brad Milton, and Tara Obner*. *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: 8 p.m., Zoom.

Activities for the Coming Week, September 28 – October 3

Lectionary Readings: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46.

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

Wednesday: Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom
Vespers, 8 p.m. on FaceBook Live
Budgets due to *Bonnie Austin* and *Lamar Jones*.

Friday: *Curt Ralston* memorial service, 11 a.m., Roeder.

Saturday: Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. *please note new date*
Pet Blessing, 11 a.m., Patio.

Sunday, October 4

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

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

