



# First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**AUTUMN THEME: GOSPEL ENCOUNTERS**

September 13, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## Prelude

Fugue in A flat major

*J.S. Bach*

*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

Allison Beaman, liturgist

We are in God's care wherever we go.

**God's strength enables us in difficult times.**

Empower us with your Holy Word,

So that we will embody the Spirit of Christ

In our relations with one another and our care for all people:

**That oppression might end, desperate needs be met,**

**And mercy extended to all your children.**

## \*Processional Hymn

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

# O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

42

Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,  
2 My gra-cious Sav - ior and my God, as - sist-me to pro - claim,  
3 Je - sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease  
4 Glo - ry to God, and love and praise be ev - er, ev - er given

The glo - ries ev - er ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God's grace!  
To spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.  
Is mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!  
By all the saints in ev - ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

*The hymn is a cento from a longer poem of eighteen stanzas*

Tune: AZMON C.M.

## \*Invocation

Let every tongue praise you as we give account of your marvelous deeds, great God. You led our ancestors through the wilderness and protected them through danger. You healed the sick and restored the exiles. Your Spirit continues to accompany us with comfort and inspiration. Today, we pray that you will grant us strength and deliver us. 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 18:21-35

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

Have Mercy

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

A Perfect Circle (A Tautology)

*arr. Bouma*

*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**

We honor you, O God, as we give. We know we do not live or die to ourselves but are a part of a large community, linked in ways beyond our knowing with you and all generations of your children. We are accountable to you and share in responsibility for one another and for the care of this planet. Thus we dedicate ourselves and our resources for the work of your realm. Receive our gifts and use them. Amen.

## **\*Recessional Hymn**

For the Healing of the Nations

# For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with  
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your  
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the  
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing  
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,  
 earth be - banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,  
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of  
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through  
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon  
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.  
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.  
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.  
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

## **\*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**

Tocatta in G

*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 13, 2020

**Prayers:** *Dr. Leland Lamberty*, hospitalized and on a ventilator in North Platte with COVID induced pneumonia; *John Schleicher*, who died recently; *Bud Cassidy*, recovering from surgery; *Jenny Pfeifer*, recovering from surgery.

**Joys:** *Dave Shipley & Pat Miller*, celebrating their wedding last weekend; *Megan & Lee Holmstedt*, celebrating the birth of *Madeleine Grace Holmstedt* – proud grandparents are *Vic & Jan Kensler*.

**Chancel flowers and decorations:** provided this month by members.

**Happy Birthday this week:** to *Andy Acker, Curt Cannon, Sam Rath, Saul Gonzalez, and Richard Le Clerc*. *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, September 14 – September 19

*Lectionary Readings: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:108; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16.*

- Monday:** Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.  
Eves, 7 p.m., Zoom
- Tuesday:** Council, 7 p.m., Zoom
- Wednesday:** Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom  
Vespers, 8 p.m. on FaceBook Live

### Sunday, September 20

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

*Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.*

