



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUTUMN THEME: GOSPEL ENCOUNTERS

September 20, 2020

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Werde Munter

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

Paul Nelson, liturgist

Come! Come, all you who are seeking God.

Come! Enter in to this place of protection and comfort

And discover that God is seeking us!

**We rejoice to have God find us here,
as we come seeking God!**

Come! Come in and experience God's joy when we come together.

Here in this sanctuary we worship, and meet God!

*Processional Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

23

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty,
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a

Tune: INBABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody

***Invocation**

Thank you, O Holy One, for this opportunity to meet you in this place of worship. We come to this new day after a long week, carrying all kinds of feelings, motions and expectations. But here, in your presence let your Holy Spirit move us to a place of rejoicing in which new hopes abound. We will celebrate the gift of your caring Spirit. 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 20:1-16

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

First and Last

Rev. Katie Miller

Musical Interlude

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

O Most Patient God, we recognize how much we need you for life itself. But how often have we behaved as if we did not know or even care about you? How often have we become the ones who do not carry out justice? How often have we tried to dominate others even as you stand with them? How often have we participated in the desolation of your creation by our treatment of the heavens, the earth and its waters? Forgive us for these times when we have lost our way. Know, All Loving God, that we want to be among those whom you seek. Shower your mercy upon us. Find us, and lead us safely home to faithfulness.

***Words of Assurance**

My friends, when we are lost, all is not lost. God is seeking us, ready to turn our lives around, gathering us in to the people of God. Let us rejoice in God's mercy!
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

Notre Amour

Faure

Claire Bouma, soprano

*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 our gifts become symbols of our intention to minister with God to satisfy the needs of those whom God loves. Amen.

*Recessional Hymn

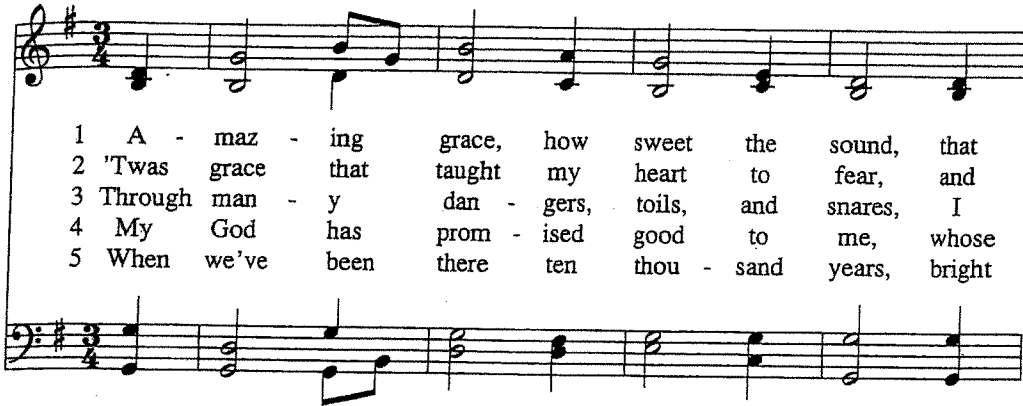
Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

547

St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

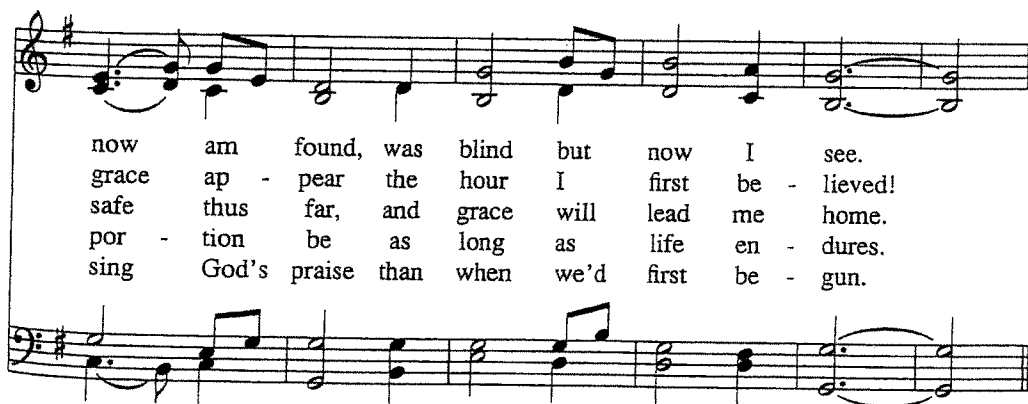
St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.
(NEW BRITAIN)

Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829

Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

X

***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

Festal Song

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 20, 2020

Prayers: for the *Lamberty Family*, on the death of *Dr. Leland Lamberty; Bud Cassidy*, back in ICU with pneumonia.

Joys: *Jeannie Bates*, celebrating the birth of twin great-nephews, *Nathan & Ian Olson!*

Chancel flowers and decorations: provided this month by members.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Vic Kensler, Cherie Ferber, Katrina Mitchell*, and *Steve Trautman*. *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 21 – September 26

*Lectionary Readings: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32;
Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32.*

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

Saturday: Hiking, Neal Woods, 9 a.m.
Evergreen Thrift Shop, open for members, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, September 20

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

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

