



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUTUMN THEME: GOSPEL ENCOUNTERS

October 11, 2020

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Ach Herr, Mit Armen Sunder

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

Mike Kratville, liturgist

We hear God welcoming us to this time of prayer.

We rejoice that God is near and available to us.

We have come to praise God and give thanks.

We come together so that our faith might be strengthened.

God continues to deliver us in times of distress.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

*Processional Hymn

Shall We Gather at the River

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597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7. with refrain

***Invocation**

Living God, at times you seem so distant; help us know you are near. At times we stray; welcome us home. Standing in your presence, we know there are other people we could be with; help us to bridge the gap between your presence and the people we love. We pray in the name of Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 22:1-14

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

A Messed Up Wedding Banquet

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Musical Interlude

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

You pour out your blessings upon us, even as we choose to go our own way. You are present and seek to bring healing and wholeness to all. We confess all that we do that separates us from you and one another. We have denied your invitation to the banquet of love and justice. We have failed to extend the invitation to others. We have failed to produce good fruit. Lord, have mercy upon us.

***Words of Assurance**

Praise be to God, our sins are forgiven. We are called back into relationship with God and with one another.

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

Fugue for Bells

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**

**Gracious God, receive the gift of our lives and this offering of our service to carry your love from
this place to a world in need. This we pray in the name of Christ, whom with you and the Holy
Spirit, reign in our hearts and lives, one God now and forever. Amen.**

***Recessional Hymn**

O Day of God, Draw Near

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611

R. B. Y. Scott, 1937; alt.

Ps. 105:7; 2 Pet. 3:8-15

1 O Day of God, draw near in beau - ty and in power,
2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid,
3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure,
4 Bring to our world of strife your sov - ereign word of peace,
5 O Day of God, draw near as at cre - a - tion's birth;

Come with your time-less judg - ment now to match our pres - ent - hour.
The qui - et of a stead-fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.
And fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.
That war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.
Let there be light a - gain, and let your reign be - gin on earth.

R. B. Y. Scott was a theologian, Old Testament scholar, and

Tune: ST. MICHAEL S.M.

*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

Te Deum Laudamus

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
October 11, 2020

Prayers: *Bud Cassiday*, back in the hospital; *Joyce Mullins*, now in hospice.

Chancel flowers and decorations: sponsored this month by *Susy Westerholm*.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Janet Bonet, Susan Fortina John Austin, Stephanie Gonzalez, Sue Epperson*, and *Peggy Christensen* (missed last week); *Pat Lamberty, Karla Villatoro, Pauline Bahnke, Nancy Glasser, Natalie Lewis, Matthew Kennedy*, and *Evan Milton*.

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom.

Activities for the Coming Week, October 12 – October 17

*Lectionary Readings: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13);
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22.*

- Monday:** Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Eves Oktoberfest!, 7 p.m., Zoom
- 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
- Thursday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Friday:** Memorial Service for *Becky Aschinger*, 11 a.m., First Central
- Saturday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, October 18

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

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

