



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUTUMN THEME: GOSPEL ENCOUNTERS

October 18, 2020

Children's Sabbath

Prelude

Playford

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

Sue Arkfeld, liturgist

We gather in awe to bring our songs of praise.

We are drawn to worship by a reality beyond our comprehension.

We sense God's presence in all things.

God is more than we can ever imagine.

The Creator has given us life.

We are amazed at the wonders all around us.

We are summoned by the one who is just and merciful.

God has chosen us as messengers of peace.

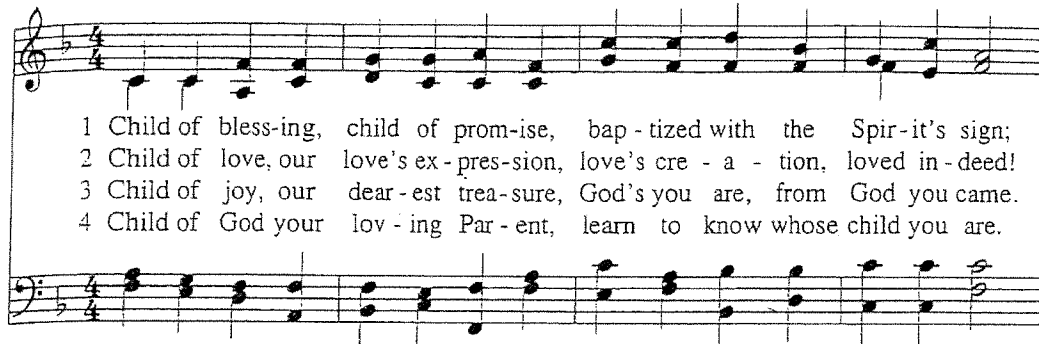
***Processional Hymn**

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

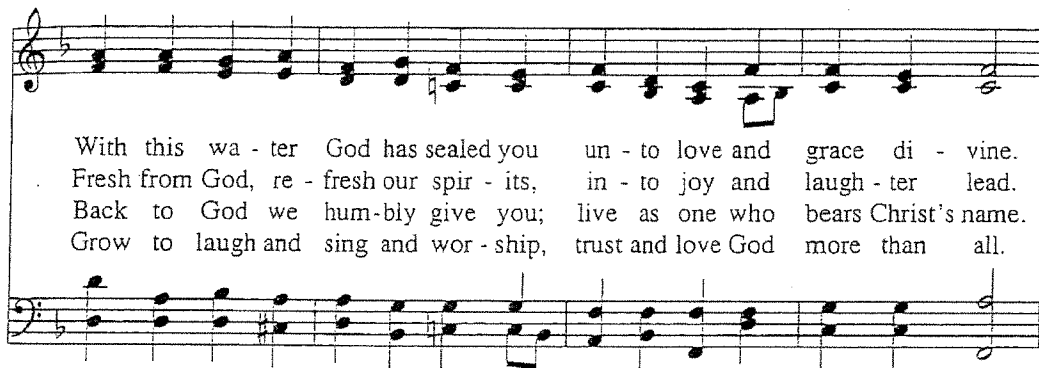
Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

325

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981



1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir-it's sign;
 2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre-a-tion, loved in-deed!
 3 Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came.
 4 Child of God your lov-ing Par-ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.
 Fresh from God, re-fresh our spir-its, in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.
 Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
 Grow to laugh and sing and wor-ship, trust and love God more than all.

Ronald Cole-Turner, a teacher of theology, is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. He is an award-winning author on the interface of science and religion.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
 Attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716), in
 Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

Words Copyright 1981 Ronald S. Cole-Turner.

*Invocation

God of forever and right now, by your Spirit open our ears to hear your Word to us in scripture, sermon, and song. Open our eyes to see your Word to us in children's faces, in masked strangers, in our action together. Open our hearts to feel your Word to us in the warmth of love, in the ache of sadness, in the energy of commitment. Strengthen our desire for justice for all children, and our wills to advocate and organize, so that all children may be safe and flourish. 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

Baptism of David Bennett Patterson, Greta Marian Sharpe, and River Paul Sharpe

Statement about Baptism

Questions to the Family

Congregational Assent

We who witness and celebrate this sacrament of baptism, on behalf of the whole Church, promise love, support, and care to David, Greta, and River as they live and grow on their faith journey.

The Act of Baptism

The Prayer for the Baptized

We give you thanks, O Holy One, Mother and Father of us all, for David, Greta, and River and for your love of them acknowledged here today in water and spirit. Embrace us all as your daughters and sons. Give to David, Greta, and River strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life, through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 22:15-22

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

Whose You Are

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Musical Interlude

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Katie Miller

Forgive us, Growing God, for callousness instead of compassion, for discouragement instead of determination, for selfishness instead of service. Allow us to grow into your ways and find favor in your sight. Mature with us so that just love may be realized for all your children. Daydream with us so that we might do justice on the behalf of all children. Answer these prayers we pray in the name of your Beloved Child, the hope of the world. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

The awesome and loving God, who is just and righteous beyond all our prejudices, is present within us giving us strength and courage. God calls us and empowers us; we are forgiven and set free.

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

Ich Folge Dir Gleichfalls

J.S. Bach

Claire Boyma, soloist

I follow you likewise with joyful steps and do not leave you my life, my light. Bring me on my way and do not cease to pull, push and urge me on.

***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**

Holy God, you have instructed us to manage well all the things that belong to you. The powers of this world have no claim on the resources you have provided except as they are used for the common good. We dedicate here today these gifts and our abilities to extend a helping hand and a joyful welcome to every person we encounter. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

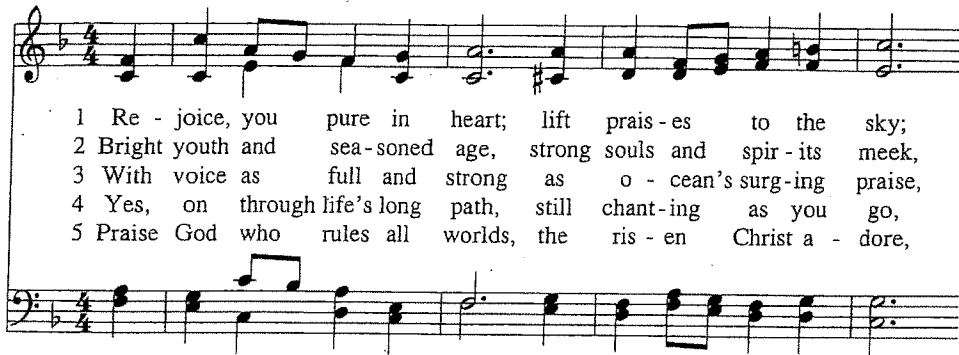
Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

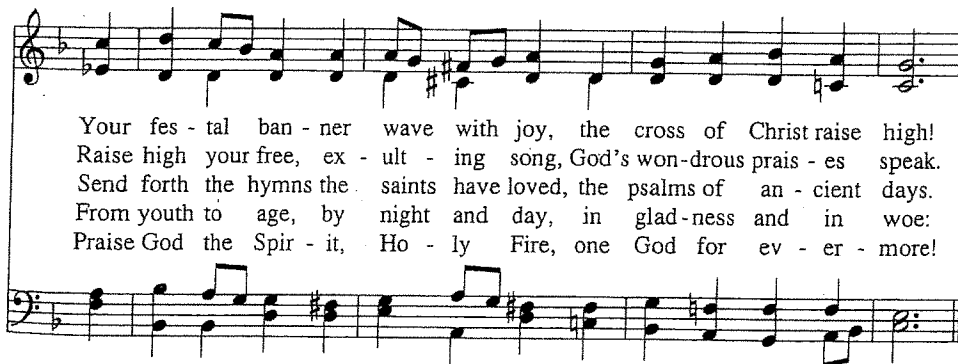
55

Edward H. Plumptre, 1865; alt.

Ps. 20:5; Phil. 4:4

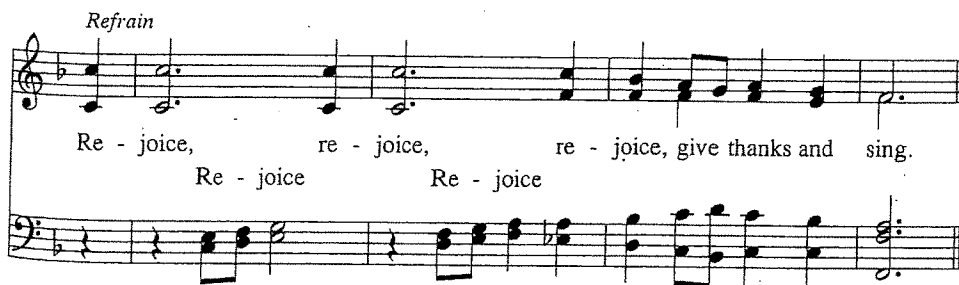


1 Re - joice, you pure in heart; lift prais - es to the sky;
2 Bright youth and sea - soned age, strong souls and spir - its meek,
3 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as you go,
5 Praise God who rules all worlds, the ris - en Christ a - dore,



Your fes - tal ban - ner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!
Raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.
Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an - cient days.
From youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:
Praise God the Spir - it, Ho - ly Fire, one God for ev - er - more!

Refrain



Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks and sing.
Re - joice Re - joice

This hymn, inspired by Philippians 4:4, was written for the Choral Festival held at Peterborough Cathedral in England. The author was an Anglican priest and a professor of theology

Tune: MARION S.M. with refrain
Arthur H. Messiter, 1883
For an alternate setting, see 71

***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

Fanfare on Nun Danket Alle Gott

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 18, 2020

Prayers: *Karen Garver*, recently hospitalized; *Bud Cassidy*, still hospitalized; *Jim Barbour*, recently hospitalized; *Joyce Mullins*, who died this week; *Don Riegenbach*, who died this week; *Kathy McConnell*, recovering from cataract surgery; *Cheryl Heller*, who took a bad fall this week; *Scott Sumpter*, who tore the meniscus in his right knee.

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

Happy Birthday this week: to *Elizabeth Wearin*, *Gary Gustafson*, *Desi Fortina Phillips*, and *Elijah Sturek*.

Baptism: During worship we will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for *David Bennett Patterson*, child of *Kamaal & Lizzie Patterson*, and *Greta Marian Sharpe* and *River Paul Sharpe*, children of *Will & Meg Sharpe*.

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom.

Activities for the Coming Week, October 19 – October 24

*Lectionary Readings: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17;
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46.*

- 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
- Thursday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Saturday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, October 25

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

Semi-Annual Meeting: immediately following worship, in person or on Zoom.

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

