



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUTUMN THEME: GOSPEL ENCOUNTERS

October 25, 2020

Reformation Sunday

Prelude

Amazing Grace

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

John Newman, liturgist

In the midst of storm and chaos, God is with us.

Let us rejoice.

In a world of violence and fear, God shatters spears and brings peace.

Let us rejoice.

The God of our ancestors will never abandon us.

Be still, and know that God is here.

Let us rejoice. Let us worship God.

***Processional Hymn**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.

1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;

Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-mega be;
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,

Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

***Invocation**

Happy are we, O God, when our hearts are full, our ways are yours, our spirits enlivened by your call. Happy are we, O God, when our lives are guided by delight. We gather here today for just that, Holy God. We gather to draw on all you would give us to be more fully yours. In Jesus' name. 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 22:34-46

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 Love Which Makes Us Free"

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Musical Interlude

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

God of mercy, grace, and goodness: We are sorry for so much – for what we have done and for what we have left undone. You know our hearts. Relieve us of our burdens, bind our hearts to you so that, in all ways, we may live in the joy of your salvation and the delight of your loving embrace. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

Happy are we when we walk in the ways of our God. Happy are we, beloved ones, as we receive God's forgiveness. Happy are we, God's own, because we are made whole, through Jesus Christ.

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

Ein Feste Burg

***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**

With what you see before us, God, we demonstrate our deepest love. Receive our gifts – our very best – as sweet offerings before you. May they be the blessing to others that they have been for us. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

393

John Fawcett, 1782; alt.

Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15

1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,

The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

An English Baptist minister, John Fawcett published a number of poetic works. His entire ministry was spent at a church near Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, where he wrote most of his hymns to follow his sermons.

Tune: DENNIS S.M.
Melody by Johann G. Nägeli (c. 1768-1836)
Adapt. Lowell Mason, 1845

*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

Two Variations on "Old 100th"

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 25, 2020

Prayers: *Bud Cassiday*, now at Madonna! *Karen Garver*, recovering from surgery; *Lizzie Patterson*, recovering from surgery; *Wendy Monbouquette*, recovering from surgery.

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

Happy Birthday this week: to *Pam Beranek* and *Joe Wheeler*.

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

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom.

Activities for the Coming Week, October 26 – October 31

*Lectionary Readings: Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43;
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12.*

Monday: Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Trunk or Treat, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., back parking lot.

Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom

Vespers, 6 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, November 1

Daylight Saving Time ends!

Worship: 10:30 a.m. on YouTube, or in-person. All Saints Day.

Food Pantry: Donations will be accepted at church. Checks may be mailed to First Central with “pantry” in the memo line.

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

