



# First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 4, 2020

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Offering

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**

Pete Peterson, liturgist

Creator God, we are here, together in hope.

**With community and creation**

With neighbors near and far

**With those known and new**

With people across geography and across time,

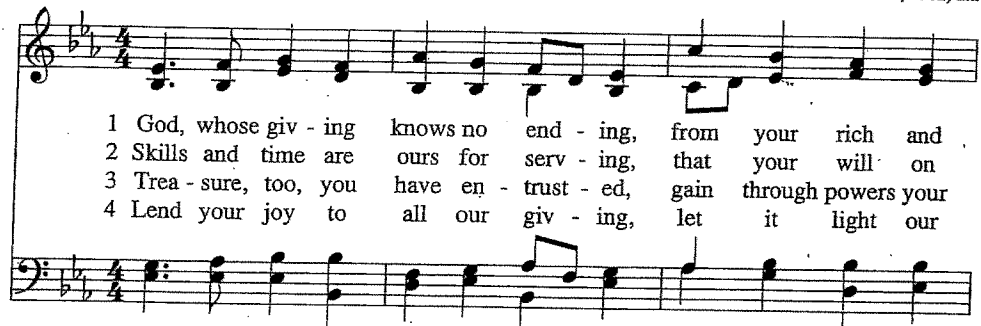
**Together in hope. Let us worship.**

**\*Processional Hymn**

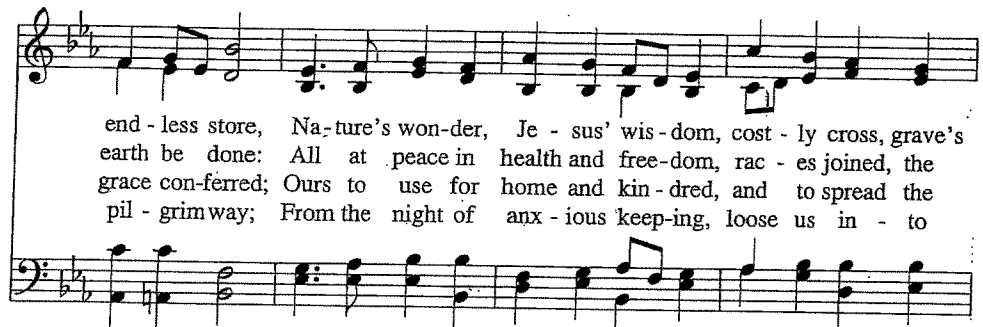
God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

## God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

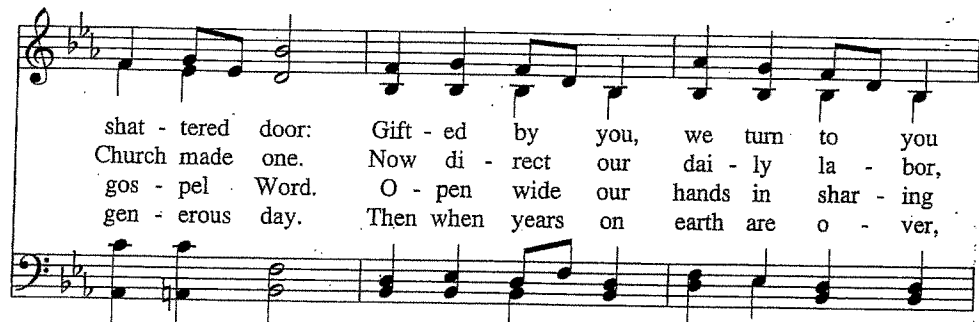
Robert L. Edwards, 1961; alt.



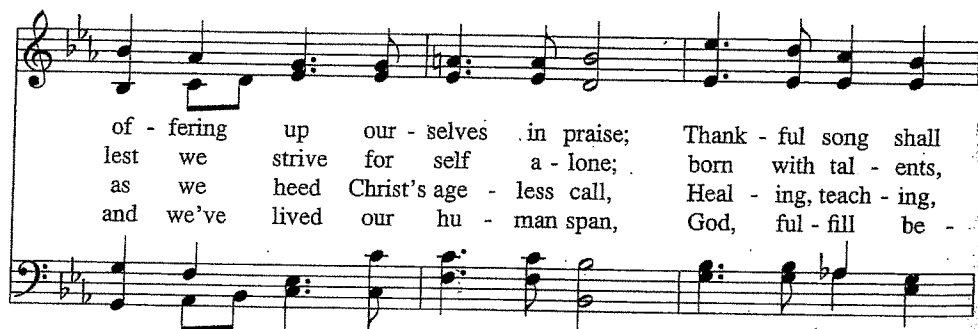
1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and  
 2 Skills and time are ours for serv - ing, that your will on  
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your  
 4 Lend your joy to all our giv - ing, let it light our



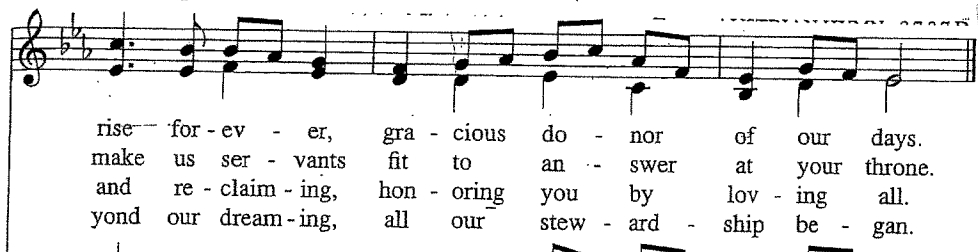
end - less store, Na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's  
 earth be done: All at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the  
 grace con - ferred; Ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the  
 pil - grim way; From the night of anx - ious keep - ing, loose us in - to



shat - tered door: Gift - ed by you, we turn to you  
 Church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor,  
 gos - pel Word. O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing  
 gen - erous day. Then when years on earth are o - ver,



of - fering up our - selves in praise; Thank - ful song shall  
 lest we strive for self a - lone; born with tal - ents,  
 as we heed Christ's age - less call, Heal - ing, teach - ing,  
 and we've lived our hu - man span, God, ful - fill be -



rise - for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
 and re - claim - ing, hon - oring you by lov - ing all.  
 yond our dream - ing, all our stew - ard - ship be - gan.

## **\*Invocation**

Holy and gracious God, let us be open to your presence among your people--  
those gathered for worship and those throughout your creation.  
May we receive you fully and respond to you wholeheartedly. 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 21:33-46

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**

Fruits of the Kingdom

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

## **Musical Interlude**

## **\*Prayer of Confession**

God-made-flesh, bone of our bone, we confess that we think we can go it alone. We try to do it  
all, neglecting the gifts you have given us and the relationships you created us for. Call us to  
community. Remind us that in you we are one. Amen.

## **\* Words of Assurance**

You are the divine creation, and it is not right for you to be alone. You are forgiven and called  
back into relationship with God and 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

Katie Miller, soloist

## \*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

Today we empty ourselves of selfish ambitions, believing that the common good is of greater concern. We present ourselves in your service, in gratitude for all the blessings we have received. We reach out with helping hands, because we care about all those you love. We give, so that your work might be accomplished. Amen.

## Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion

As grain that was scattered on the hillside was gathered together and made into one loaf, so too, we, scattered at tables in our own homes, are bound together around Christ's table and become one. As grapes grown in the field are gathered together and pressed into wine, so too are we drawn together and pressed by our times to share a common lot and are transformed into Christ's self-giving love for all.

God be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts

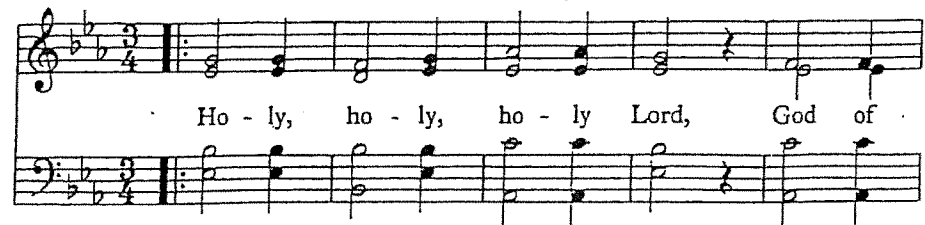
We lift them up to God.

Give thanks to God.

It is right and good to give God thanks and praise.

Praise to you Divine Creator. Thank you for the gift of life, the beauty of nature, and your steadfast loving kindness. Praise to you Divine Redeemer. Thank you for sharing our human existence, from birth through death to everlasting life you have shown us a way worth emulating, bringing healing and hope to those most in need. Praise to you Divine Sustainer. Thank you for the vision to see beyond the immediate, a calm in the midst of storm, the strength to build an ever expanding community and the courage to bring about any change necessary within our lives. Today we join in communion with all the saints in every time and age to sing your glory:

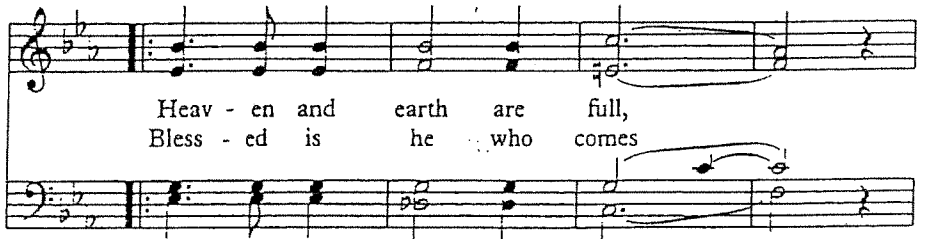
From *Deutsche Messe* by Franz Schubert; adapt. by Richard Proulx



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of



power and might. might.



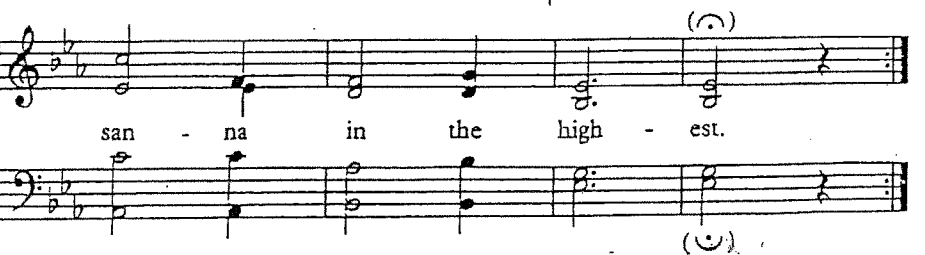
Heav - en and earth are full,  
Bless - ed is he who comes



full in the of your glo - ry. Ho -  
in the name of the Lord.



san - na in the high - est, ho -



san - na in the high - est.

## Words of Institution and Invitation to the Table

### The Bread and the Cup

### For the Fruit of All Creation

## For the Fruit of All Creation

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*Fred Pratt Green, 1970*

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

# \*Recessional Hymn

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

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## Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf, 1964

*Descant*

2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

*Unison*

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is  
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in  
shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

Omer Westendorf, author of numerous hymns, compiler of

Tune: THE ASH GROVE 6.6.11.6.6.11.D.  
Welsh folk melody

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Communion. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress. Descant Copyright 1993 The Pilgrim Press.

each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with  
 all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -  
 each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this  
 cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for  
 your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -  
 God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -  
 life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.  
 nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.  
 giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

CHORUS OF HARMONY

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## **\*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**

Paen

#### **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 4, 2020**

**Prayers:** *Pat Kessler*, hospitalized at Bergen; *Bud Cassiday*, now at Madonna Rehab; *Jan Kensler*, recovering from a fractured disc; *Steve Dolezal*, recovering from surgery.

**Joys:** Stop by today between 2 and 4 to wish *John Austin* a happy 80th birthday and pick up a piece of cake to go. Mask required. 116 S. 51 Ave.

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

**Happy Birthday this week:** to *Terry Beranek, Sam Pfeifer, Alex Gross, Terry Diel, Brad Milton*, and *Tara Obner*. *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.*

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

**Hymn Sing:** 7 p.m., Zoom

**FirstYouth:** 8 p.m., Zoom.

**Are you new:** to our church family, and interested in learning more about us and the membership process? Join us for an upcoming, online, version of Church Chat and meet with church leaders and members who can answer any questions you might have. Just email [sara@firstcentral.org](mailto:sara@firstcentral.org), and we'll coordinate a meeting time!

### Activities for the Coming Week, October 5 – October 10

*Lectionary Readings: Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14.*

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

**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.

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

### Sunday, October 11

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

**FirstYouth:** 8 p.m., Zoom

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

