



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUTUMN THEME: GOSPEL ENCOUNTERS

November 22, 2020

Reign of Christ

Prelude

Variations on "Kremser"

Bouma

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

Kerrie Kleppin Winn, liturgist

Enter the gates with thanksgiving and the courts with praise.

Come into God's presence with singing.

Worship the Holy One with gladness.

Make a joyful noise!

For God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever,

We are God's people. Let us give thanks and praise!

*Processional Hymn

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Based on hymns by H. Alford, 1810-1871, and Anna L. Barbauld, 1743-1825

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR, 77.77 D

G. J. Elvey, 1858

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;
 2. All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,
 3. We our-selves are God's own field fruit un-to his praise to yield,

1. all is safe-ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be-gin;
 2. all the fruits in full sup-ply, rip-en'd 'neath the sum-mer sky,
 3. wheat and tares to- geth-er sown, un-to joy or sor-row grown:

1. God, our Mak-er, doth pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied;
 2. all that spring with boun-teous hand scat-ters o'er the smil-ing land,
 3. first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap-pear;

1. come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home!
 2. all that lib-'ral au-tumn pours comes from God's o'er-flow-ing stores.
 3. grant, O har-vest Lord, that we whole-some grain and pure may be.

***Invocation**

Generous God, you are present in all times and places: capture our attention today. Open our eyes to the wonders you provide. Open our hearts to care deeply about people in need. Awaken our generosity and our sense of justice, that we might be inspired to helpful action. Open our mouths to share the good news of your salvation for all people. 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 25:31-46

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 Work

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Musical Interlude

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

Loving God, too often, we overlook the needs of people around us while we proclaim our devotion to you. We could do more to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, and visit prisoners. We fail to see how our prison system diminishes the humanity of all of us, how our medical system denies healing to the poor, how poverty robs children of their dreams, how our policies harm refugees and immigrants. Open our eyes to see your presence in every person, so that we might respond to their needs, as you have called us to do. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

God reaches out to us, longing to bring us ever closer, and transform us into our best selves. Hear this good news: you are forgiven and 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.

Neighbors in Need Focus

Gary McConnell

Offertory

Old 100th

*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

For all the blessings of the land and water, for family and friends who enrich our lives, for shelter, education, and empowerment—our hearts overflow with thanksgiving to you. In Jesus Christ we have been shown a way to the wholeness you intend for

*Recessional Hymn

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing

Phil. 4:4; Rev. 3:7; 19:6-7

Charles Wesley, 1746; alt.

1 Re - jice, give thanks and sing; your Sov-ereign God a - dore!
 2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3 Christ Je - sus can - not fail, to rule both earth and heaven;
 4 Re - jice in glo - rious hope, for Christ the Judge shall come,

For Christ has robbed death's sting and tri - umphs ev - er - more. Lift
 The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power a - bove. Lift
 The keys of death and hell are to the Sav - ior given. Lift
 And take the faith - ful up to their e - ter - nal home. We

up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - jice, a - gain I say, re - jice.
 up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - jice, a - gain I say, re - jice.
 up your heart, lift up your voice! Re - jice, a - gain I say, re - jice.
 soon shall hear a heaven-ly voice a - bove the trum-pet's sound, "Re - jice!"

This Ascension text, one of the festival hymns by Charles Wesley, was published originally in John Wesley's Moral and Sacred Poems (1744). Somewhat altered, it appeared in this familiar version in

Tune: DARWALL'S 148th 6.6.6.6.8.8.
 John Darwall, 1770

***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

Now Thank We All Our God

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
November 22, 2020

Chancel flowers and decorations: sponsored this month by *Steve & Susan Dolezal*, the *Wiseman-Gustafson family*, and *Elizabeth Wearin*.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Jeanine Brown, Sue Cassidy, Joy Jochimsen, Bonnie Harmon*, and *Pete Peterson*.

Neighbors in Need: donations welcomed this month. Please make your check out to First Central, with NIN in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service: 5 p.m. online. Link is on the First Central FaceBook page.

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom.

Activities for the Coming Week, November 23-November 28

*Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37.*

- Monday:** Office closed through Friday.
Wednesday: Vespers, 6 p.m., FaceBook live.
Thursday: Thanksgiving Day.
Evergreen Thrift Shop, *temporarily closed*.
Saturday: Evergreen Thrift Shop, *temporarily closed*.

Sunday, November 29

Worship: 10:30 a.m. on YouTube.

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

