



# First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## AUTUMN THEME: GOSPEL ENCOUNTERS

November 8, 2020

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

### Prelude

Fugue on Tallis' Canon

### 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

Jim Barbour, liturgist

We call upon God's Wisdom.

**She will answer.**

We seek God's Wisdom.

**She dwells in the midst of life.**

We will follow God's Wisdom.

**She leads in the paths of light and generosity.**

### \*Processional Hymn

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

## Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Matt. 25:1-13; Gal. 6:9

African-American spiritual

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn-ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn-  
 2 It's our faith makes us hap-py, it's our faith makes us hap-  
 3 We are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, we are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-  
 4 Ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er, ev-ery round goes high-er, high-

*Last time, end*

-ing, keep your lamps trimmed and burn-ing, for this work's al-most done.  
 -py, it's our faith makes us hap-py, for this work's al-most done.  
 -der, we are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, for this work's al-most done.  
 -er ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er, for this work's al-most done.

*Refrain*

Sis-ters, don't grow wear-y, broth-ers, don't grow

wear-y, chil-dren, don't grow wear-y, for this work's al-most done.

For the refrain, you may well use substitute words for the refrain

## **\*Invocation**

Holy God, we hear your Wisdom in Jesus Christ, the One you sent to dwell in our midst and lead us to abundant life. Keep us alert to the call to follow, ready to respond with justice and joy in your holy moment, which is always Now. 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 25:1-13

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 Wait

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

## **Musical Interlude**

## **\*Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

We remember that the prophets offer us words from God to challenge complacent comfort. Our praise, our worship, our singing, however beautiful and heartfelt, must be accompanied by the work of justice in community. What pleases God is to have justice pour from our lives like waters, and righteousness from our work, like an ever-flowing stream. So we pause for a moment and confess the ways in which we have not done the work and have not prepared for the coming reign of God.

## **\*Words of Assurance**

God's grace flows through our lives, refreshing and making all things new. Let this grace flow from us as justice and righteousness, that our lives and work may bless our world, in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **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**

Justin Lowndes

## **Offertory**

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

## **\*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**

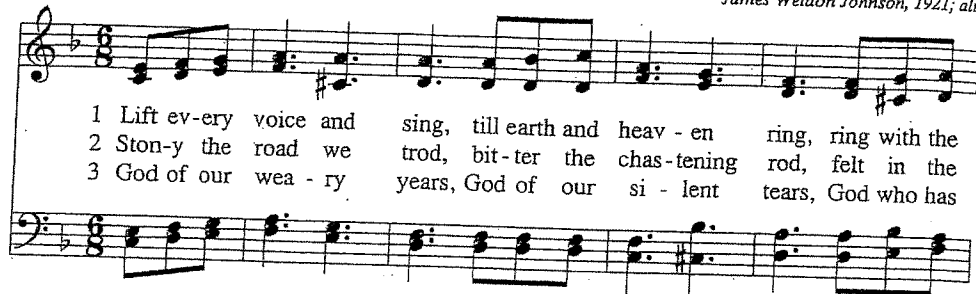
God, we have come, and given generously of our gifts. Take, bless, and multiply them so that  
they may be a blessing in your world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## **\*Recessional Hymn**

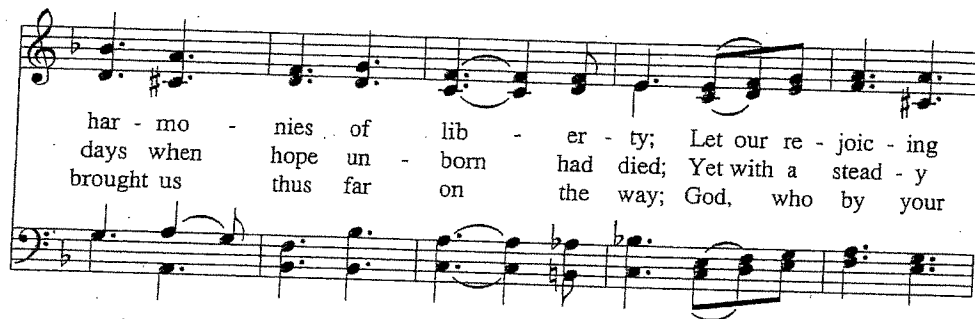
Lift Every Voice and Sing

593

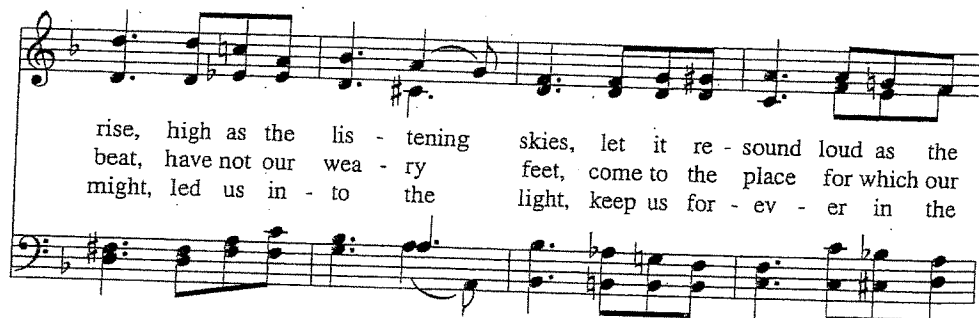
## Lift Every Voice and Sing

*James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.*



1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the  
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the  
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has



har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing  
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y  
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your



rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the  
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our  
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the



roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the  
 peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a  
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the


Poet James Weldon Johnson was the first African-American to pass the bar examination in the state of Florida, and served as

Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE. Irr.  
 [Recommended Johnson, 1921]

593 cont.



faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the  
way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our  
plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the



hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the  
path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the  
wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -



ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march  
gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white  
neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our



on till vic - to - ry is won.  
gleam of our bright star is cast.  
God, true to our na - tive land.

## **\*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**

Old 100<sup>th</sup>

#### **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 8, 2020**

**Prayers:** *Yvette Polinsky* and family, on the death of her stepfather; *Val Himes*, on the death of her sister; *Rick Richards*, hospitalized following a heart attack.

**Joys:** *Bud Cassidy*, now at home!

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

**Happy Birthday this week:** to *Nicole Le Clerc* (missed last week!), *Toni Diel*, *Lauren Hole Lang*, *Lamar Jones*, *Jordan Acker Anderson*, and *Tracy Zaiss*.

**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.

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

### Activities for the Coming Week, November 9-November 14

*Lectionary Readings: Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:1-13.*

**Monday:** Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.  
Eves, 7 p.m., Zoom

**Tuesday:** Council, 7 p.m., Zoom

**Wednesday:** Vespers, 6 p.m. on FaceBook Live  
Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom  
Matching Members to Ministries, 7 p.m., Zoom

**Thursday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop, *temporarily closed*.

**Saturday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop, *temporarily closed*.

### Sunday, November 15

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

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

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

