



# First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**EPIPHANY THEME: FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**

January 17, 2021

Second Sunday after Epiphany

**Prelude**

Teo Ricercares

**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**

Adam Steffen, liturgist

God searches us and knows us.

**Your knowledge of us is more than we can understand.**

Your expectations of us are high and holy.

**We are eager to be transformed by your Spirit.**

Be still and receive God's word.

**Speak to us, for we are listening.**

**\*Processional Hymn**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

# In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

*Unison*

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.  
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

*Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.*

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985

## **\*Invocation**

We gather for worship because you have summoned and welcomed us. We are drawn irresistibly to the promise of your presence. Speak to us in ways we can understand. We want to hear the message you intend for us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we might be fruitful. 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**

### **Epistle Lesson**

Colossians 1:3-14

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**

With Patience

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

### **\*Hymn**

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

## Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

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*George Croly, 1854; alt.**Gal. 5:25; Matt. 22:37; John 1:32*

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
 3 Have you not bid us love you ev - ery way?  
 4 Teach me to feel that you are al - ways nigh;  
 5 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;  
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
 All, all your own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind;  
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,  
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as you are,  
 No an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;  
 I see your cross—there teach my heart to stay;  
 To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;  
 The bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.  
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
 O let me seek you, and O let me find.  
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.  
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

*George Croly, ordained in the Church of Ireland, was well known in London literary circles and served a poor parish. This hymn is from a collection he compiled for that congregation.*

Tune: MORECAMBE 10.10.10.10.  
 Frederick C. Atkinson, 1870

## **\*Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we have been listening. Help us to recognize ourselves in what we have heard. Remove the barriers that keep us from acknowledging our sin. Help us to realize what we have done wrong and the good we have neglected. Create in us an earnest desire to change. Because of your loving care, we can face these truths and bear holy fruit. Amen.

## **\*Words of Assurance**

God hears our cries and feels our pain. God embraces us as beloved children, redeems us for a new life, and encourages us for the work ahead.

## **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**

Advent Prayer

## **\*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**

Transforming God, we dedicate our gifts for the health of your creation. May those who receive these gifts be blessed by your love and inspired to give to others so that your creation will continue to be transformed in love.

## **\*Recessional Hymn**

O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word

O radiant Christ, incarnate Word, eternal love revealed in time: Come, make your home within our hearts, that we may dwell in light sublime.

Our bartered, busy lives burn dim, too tired to care, too numb to feel. Come, shine upon our

shadowed world: your radiance bathes with power to heal.

Your glory shone at Jordan's stream, the font where we were born anew. Attune your church to know you near; illumine all we say and do.

O Light of Nations, fill the earth: our faith and hope and love renew. Come, lead the peoples to your peace, as stars once led the way to you.

## **\*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**

Antiphonal Fanfare

#### **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**  
**January 17, 2021**

**Prayers:** the *Trautman Family*, on the death of *Steve's* mother.

**Happy Birthday this week:** to *Lou Lamberty, Parker Schwerdtfeger, Diane Dimon, Desi Steffen, Bob Vassell, and Nikki Irish.*

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

**Siena/Francis House:** Congregational Outreach is collecting socks and underwear this month for the homeless in our area. Donations may be dropped off at church; please call first.

**Congregational Outreach Ministry:** 11:30 a.m., Zoom

**Activities for the Coming Week, January 18 – January 23**

*Lectionary Readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12;  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20.*

**Monday:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Office closed.

**Wednesday:** Vespers, 8 p.m., FaceBook Live  
Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom

**Sunday, January 24**

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

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

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

