



# First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## EPIPHANY THEME: FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

January 24, 2021

Third Sunday after Epiphany

**Prelude**

Asperges Me

**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**

Barb and Grant Switzer, liturgists

God reigns and is nearer to us than we realize.

**God's realm is available to us here and now.**

Speak your invitation to us today.

**Confront us again with the good news you want us to share.**

Enlist us in reaching out to the world with love and joy.

**May everyone know the fulfillment you intend.**

**\*Processional Hymn**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

# Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

William M. Runyan, 19  
arranged by Erik Routley, 19

FAITHFULNESS, 11.10.11.10 D dactylic

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, — O God my Fa - ther,  
3. Pár - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

1. there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee;  
3. thy own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

1. thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions they fail not;  
3. strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

1. as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
3. bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side.

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Words by Thomas Chisholm; music by William Runyan, copyright 1923, renewed 1951 by Hope Publishing Co.; music arr. Erik Routley, copyright 1985 by Hope Publishing Co. and used by permission.

# 155 con't.

2. Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,  
 4. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, great is thy faith - ful - ness,

2. sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
 4. morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;

2. join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 4. all I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed—

2. to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 4. great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

NOTE: This hymn can be sung using st. 4 as a chorus after st. 1-3, and using the music of st. 1 for st. 1-3.

## **\*Invocation**

From deep within us we know of a loving presence. Around us we see glory, beauty, and light. In this moment of worship, may that loving presence grow deeper. May we, gathered together, rest in the steadfast love of God. 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**

I Corinthians 16:13

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**

Stand Firm

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

### **\*Hymn**

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

# If You But Trust in God to Guide You

Georg Neumark, 1641  
 Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

Ps. 55:22

1 If you but trust in God to guide you, with hope-ful heart through  
 2 On - ly be still, and wait God's plea - sure in cheer-ful hope, with  
 3 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv-ing; of - fer your ser - vice

all your ways, you will find strength, with God be - side you,  
 heart con - tent, trust-ing that grace which knows no mea - sure  
 faith - ful - ly, and trust God's word, though un - de - serv-ing,

to bear the worst of e - vil days; For those who trust God's  
 will by un - bound - ed Love be sent; Nor doubt our in - most  
 there find the truth to set you free; God will not fail to

change-less love build on the rock that will not move.  
 wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways near.  
 guide and bless those who em - brace God's faith - ful - ness.

## **\*Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

Loving God, we repent of everything in our lives that cuts us off from you. Help us to turn our attention to you, that we might be changed. Fill us with your spirit, so that we might bear good fruit. Nurture in us a spirit of trust. May we be faithful in our commitments to you and to one another. Amen.

## **\*Words of Assurance**

God has better things in store for us. We are forgiven our sins and empowered to forgive others. Our lives are part of God's great work to heal the world.

## **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**

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

## **\*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**

May these gifts, given to these ministries of grace, be a blessing to friends and strangers. For in this way, the love of God reaches all of God's beloved children. Amen.

## **\*Recessional Hymn**

My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff

# My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff

*Thomas T. Lynch, 1855; alt.*

1 My faith, it is an oak - en staff, the trav - eler's well - loved aid;  
 2 My guide is Je - sus. Christ whose steps, when trav - el - ers have trod,  
 3 My faith, it is an oak - en staff, O let me on it lean.

My faith, it is a song of trust, sus - tains me un - dis - mayed.  
 Wheth - er be - neath was flint - y rock or yield - ing grass - y sod,  
 My faith pro - vides the ground of hope, sup - ports a pur - pose keen.

I'll trav - el on and still be stirred by si - lent thought or so - cial  
 They car - ried on, their joy un - spent; through pain and trial they on - ward  
 Your Spir - it, God, up - on me send, that I may be what you in -

word; By all my per - ils un - de - terred, a pil - grim un - a - fraid.  
 went, Un - stayed by plea - sure, still they bent their zeal - ous course to God.  
 tend. With pa - tient cour - age, we'll con - tend as ra - diant saints se - rene.

## **\*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**

Carillon

#### **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 24, 2021**

**Prayers:** *Kay Jensen*, who has been ill; *Natalie Lewis*, recovering from surgery.

**Happy Birthday this week:** to *Stephen Bouma, Trudy Knapp-Rhodes, Pat Sharp, Jeremy Cassiday, Laura Grams, Nicholas Vincent, Jim Barbour, Nancy Schalles, and Will Gustafson.*

**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.

**Activities for the Coming Week, January 25 – January 30**

*Lectionary Readings: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28.*

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

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

**Sunday, January 31**

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

**Annual Meeting:** 11:30 a.m., Zoom

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

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

