



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

EPIPHANY THEME: FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

February 14, 2021

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude

Air and Variations

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

Stephanie Gonzalez, liturgist

Open your eyes to the glory of God.

We gather seeking transformation and empowerment.

In and through God's love we become new people.

We look for a vision to claim our souls.

God leads us in the way of adventure and purpose.

We will participate in God's dream to change the world.

*Processional Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.

1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;

Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,

Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

***Invocation**

O Holy One, on mountaintops and valley floors you reveal to us the light of your love. Our heart's desire is to bask in the glory of the divine presence. With each encounter we are changed and transformed. Draw us nearer, that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit. Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory. Our world is hurting, and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely. May we walk among our siblings and friends as a blessing: bearing light into dark places, hope to displace despair, and love that casts out hate. 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

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

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

Cheerful Giving

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

***Hymn**

I Would Be True

I Would Be True

St. 1, 2, Howard Arnold Walter, 1917
St. 3, anon.; alt.

1 I would be true, for there are those who trust me; I would be
2 I would be friend of all, the foe, the friend-less; I would be
3 I would be prayer-ful through each bus - y mo - ment; I would be

pure, for there are those who care; I would be strong, for
giv - ing, and for - get the gift; I would be hum - ble,
con - stant - ly in touch with God; I would be tuned to

there is much to suf - fer; I would be brave, for
for I know my weak - ness; I would look up, and
sense God's slight - est whis - per; I would have faith to

there is much to dare, I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
laugh, and love, and live, I would look up, and laugh, and love, and live.
keep the path Christ trod, I would have faith to keep the path Christ trod.

The first two stanzas of this hymn are from "My Creed," a poem
that Howard Walter sent to his mother from Japan, where he

Tune: PEEK 11.10.11.10.10.
Joseph Y. Peek, 1911

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

Forgive us, God, when we fail to listen to your voice, leading and guiding us. Shake us from our contentment and send us forward endowed with your power and glory. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

God is full of grace. Forgiveness shall be our friend and mercy our true companion. Let us love God and follow on the way, bearing spiritual fruit.

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

Love

Sugarland

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**

With these gifts we proclaim not ourselves but Jesus and commit to follow a way that leads to love and life. May our contribution witness to our love for each other and the God who loves us all. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

Now in the Days of Youth

Now in the Days of Youth

350

Walter J. Mathams, 1913; alt.
Adapt. Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1992

Eccles. 12:1; 1 Cor. 16:13; Deut. 30:19-20

1 Now in the days of youth when life is filled with choice, when
2 Teach us to use our lives with pur- pose and with power for
3 Teach us to love in truth, to give and to re- ceive with
4 Teach-er, Cre- a - tor, God, en - fold us in your arms; be

hope and doubt touch ev - ery hour, when all thoughts find a voice,
vi - sions of a bet - ter world and for de - ci - sion's hour;
joy - ful and with o - pen hearts, with all that we be - lieve;
with us as we try our wings, and keep us safe from harm.

We turn, O God, to you for guid-ance and for grace. In
To choose the way of life, re - ject the way of death, un -
To seek an - oth - er's good, to hon - or what is right, to
All good and per - fect gifts come to us from your hand. O

all our days, in all our ways, help us to seek your face.
til the ra - diant force of God fills mind and strength and breath.
let our will and our de - sire be held in ho - ly light.
help us use them care - ful - ly and live by love's com - mand.

When the Rev. Walter J. Mathams of London wrote this hymn

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.

***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

Gigue

G. F. Handel

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
February 14, 2021

Prayers: *Jan Kensler*, recovering from surgery; *Renee Crosby*, beginning chemotherapy again.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Rachael Ferber, Margaret Frum, James Askew*, and *Mollie Foster*.

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom.

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

Activities for the Coming Week, February 15 – February 20

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.

- Monday:** Presidents' Day. Office closed.
- Wednesday:** Disposition of ashes, 5:30-6 p.m., back parking lot. *weather permitting*
Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom
Ash Wednesday service, 8 p.m., FaceBook Live
- Thursday:** **Evergreen Thrift Shop OPEN 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**
Congregational Care Ministry, 7:30 p.m., Zoom
- Saturday:** **Evergreen Thrift Shop OPEN 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Sunday, February 21

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

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

