



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LENT THEME: ASCENT

February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Elevation #3: Ascension

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

To you, O GOD, we lift up our whole selves.

For you we wait.

May we begin our Lenten journey together in right relationships.

Guide us in your paths.

You are the God of our salvation.

Grow us to know your ways more clearly.

Rita Grossenstein, liturgist

***Processional Hymn**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

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Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody

***Invocation**

Open our eyes, so that we might see and know your signs. Open our ears, that we might hear your voice again. Direct us to places of preparation and transformation. Change our lives and renew your world. Thank you God for your steadfast love in this season of Lent. 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

Songs of Ascent

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Musical Interlude

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

Creating and Renewing God, in this Lenten season we each need the opportunity to clear our eyes of the glaze of indifference and apathy. Enable us to get our minds off distractions, obsessions, and self-pity, so that we don't feel helpless. Re-orient head and heart, so that we may fill our whole selves with life-affirming activities and thoughts. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

God hears our prayers and, even in our human frailty, promises to be with us in the depths. God's steadfast love comforts us and offers us the courage to build and renew ourselves and our relationships. May your hope and joy be restored.

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

Elevation in E-minor

Guilmant

***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 of all bounty and blessing, receive our lives and our gifts to be bounty and blessings to you,
your church, and your world. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

Just as I Am

Just as I Am

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Charlotte Elliott, 1836; alt.

John 6:37; Eph. 2:14

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that your
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a
3 Just as I am, you will re - ceive, will wel - come,
4 Just as I am, your love un - known has bro - ken

love ~~blood~~ was ~~shed~~ ^{giv - en} for me, And that you called in -
con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause your prom - ise
ev - ery bar - rier down; Now to be yours, and

vit - ing me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
yours a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

This text appeared in Charlotte Elliott's Invalid's Hymn Book,
published in 1836.

Tune: WOODWORTH L.M.

*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

Fanfare and Musette

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 21, 2021

Prayers: for family and friends in Texas.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Sarah Malena, Chloe Fortina, Jeannie Bates, Mia Spencer, Karen Garver, Violet Little, Bowen Steffen, Anthony Wiglusz, Scott Jones, and Helen Sawtell.*

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 22 – February 27

*Lectionary Readings: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31;
Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:1-38 or Mark 9:2-9.*

Monday: Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom
Vespers, 8 p.m., FaceBook Live
Thursday: Evergreen Thrift Shop OPEN 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Saturday: Evergreen Thrift Shop OPEN 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, February 28

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.

