



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

LENT THEME: ASCENT

March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Elevation in C

Bouma

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

***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

Justin Lowndes, liturgist

We lay bare before God our own wilderness journey filled with gladness and hope,
reluctance and sorrow, fear and confusion.

O God, speak to us and touch us with your presence.

We seek to follow Jesus in helping our world and our prayers for one another.

We come to worship, to pray, and to learn.

May our Lenten ascent lead us to show forth Jesus in our lives, our church,
and our world.

Teach us to dream amazing dreams.

***Processional Hymn**

O How Shall I Receive You

O How Shall I Receive You

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Paul Gerhardt, 1653

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, and others; alt.

1 O how shall I re - ceive you, how meet you on your way,
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you un - to me;
3 You come, O Christ, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good - will,

blessed hope of ev - ery peo - ple, my soul's de - light and stay?
your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O Je - sus, Je - sus, give me now by your own pure light,
O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to know what-e'er is pleas - ing and wel - come in your sight.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
when a re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

As a German Lutheran pastor serving during the Thirty Years' War, Paul Gerhardt's trials were legion. In the midst of it all, he composed more than a hundred hymns, among them some of the

Tune: ST. THEODULPH 7.6.7.6.D.
(VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)
Matthias Tschorn, 1615

***Invocation**

God of the journey, you invite us to accept the cost and joy of discipleship and to be your servants in the service of others. In so doing, may your dreams guide us, and your presence empower us. We respond to you in loving faithfulness. 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

Psalm Lesson

Psalm 126

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

Dreaming

Rev. Katie Miller

Musical Interlude

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, the world in which we live is as terrifying as it is wonderful. Many sow in tears, and go out weeping. We have not always listened to you or heeded your wisdom and guidance. Forgive us, God. Replenish our lands, fill our hearts with gladness, restore our faith in you and each other, and wipe away the tears of despair.

***Words of Assurance**

God is present here. God is working in our midst. Our mouths will be filled with laughter. Our tongues will shout out with joy!

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

Amazing Grace

Allison Beaman, clarinet

*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

Restoring God, we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our dreams. May our act of giving
draw us closer to you and extend a blessing to all the people who are helped through our
sharing. Amen.

*Recessional Hymn

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

10 ^{FALL} 8-9

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My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Matt. 7:24-27; 1 Cor. 3:11; Heb. 6:19; Rev. 11:15

Edward Mote, c. 1834; alt.

1 My hope is built on nothing less than Je - sus' love and
2 When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -
3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
4 When Christ shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I then in

righ - teous - ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
chang - ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
Love be found, Dressed in God's righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain
whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;
then is all my hope and stay.
less to stand be - fore the throne.

all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

William Bradbury met great success by composing hymn tunes

Tune: SOLID ROCK I. M. with refrain

***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

Sonatina

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

March 21, 2021

Prayers: *Dorothy Rydberg*, who broke her leg; *Linda Meigs*, whose father-in-law died recently.

Chancel decorations: thanks to *Andy Acker* for the beautiful painting.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Sandy Lee, Elisa Wiseman, Robin Fey, Patrick Irish, Matt Lee, Melissa Price, and Wyatt Straka.*

One Great Hour of Sharing: donations welcomed this morning. Thank you for your generosity.

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

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom.

Activities for the Coming Week, March 22 – March 27

Lectionary Readings: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16;

Monday: Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom

Vespers, 8 p.m., FaceBook Live

Thursday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Palms may be picked up on the patio near the south entrance

Sunday, March 28

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

FirstKids: Memorial Hall following the Conversation with the Children.

Masks required.

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

