



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

EASTER SEASON THEME: ABIDING LOVE

April 18, 2021

Third Sunday of Easter

Prelude

In Paradisum

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

Kelly Beaman, liturgist

Easter is full of amazing surprises.

Christ is Risen and greets us with peace.

Beloved, we are children of God.

We look forward to what God will reveal through us.

We are witnesses of God's glory and steadfast love.

This good news washes over us with refreshing joy.

Show us today how to embody your abiding love.

We follow in the way of Jesus.

***Processional Hymn**

When Love Is Found

MARRIAGE

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When Love Is Found

Matt. 19:6; Mark 10:8

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1992

Unison

1 When love is found and hope comes home, sing and be
 2 When love has flowered in trust and care, build both each
 3 When love is tried as loved-ones change, hold still to
 4 When love is torn, and trust be - trayed, pray strength to
 5 Praise God for love, praise God for life, in age or

glad that two are one. When love ex - plodes and fills the
 day, that love may dare to reach be - yond home's warmth and
 hope, though all seems strange, till ease re - turns and love grows
 love till tor - ments fade, till lov - ers keep no score of
 youth, in calm or strife. Lift up your hearts! Let love be

sky, praise God, and share our Mak - er's joy.
 light, to serve and strive for truth and right.
 wise through lis - tening ears and o - pened eyes.
 wrong, but hear through pain love's Eas - ter song.
 fed through death and life in bro - ken - bread.

***Invocation**

God of love and light, we come as witnesses of your glory and faithfulness, amazed to discover your transformative love. God, we desire for you to abide within us, and for your grace to be revealed anew daily. Awaken within us the call to love one another as one family. 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

1 John 3:1-3

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

What Are We to Become?

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Musical Interlude

***Prayer of Confession**

You speak to us in many ways--in the spectacular and through the quietest whisper, in the bustle of city streets and the solitude of a desert place, in the ebb and flow of daily life. You speak to us in many ways, yet our ears are often tuned to different voices--louder, more insistent voices, attractive voices. Forgive us, when we fail to hear your word. Forgive us, when we disappoint you. Open our ears to hear and our hearts to service. Through the risen Christ we ask this. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

Our loving God hears our prayers and answers. We receive a healing touch and are made whole again. God is full of compassion, opening us to new possibilities. For this we give thanks and are blessed.

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

Adieu

Matt Kielian, Tenor

*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 abundant love, we offer our time, gifts, and resources as a sign of our love for you and the world. We give thanks for all that we have and ask a special blessing on these offerings. Use these donations to bring healing and hope to a hurting world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

*Recessional Hymn

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

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Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981

1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir-it's sign;
 2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre-a-tion, loved in-deed!
 3 Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came.
 4 Child of God your lov-ing Par-ent, learn to know whose child you are.

With this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.
 Fresh from God, re-fresh our spir-its, in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.
 Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
 Grow to laugh and sing and wor-ship, trust and love God more than all.

Ronald Cole-Turner, a teacher of theology, is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. He is an award-winning author on the interface of science and religion.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
 Attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716), in Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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*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

Ostinato

Bouma

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

April 18, 2021

Prayers: *Pete Peterson*, recovering from hip surgery; *Stephanie Gonzalez*, on the death of her uncle, *Richard Baum*; *Bob Vassell*, on the death of his cousin, *Keith Cordes*.

Joys: *Lucy Franks Wanzenried & Tom Jaworski*, celebrating their marriage last week!

Happy Birthday this week: to *Chase Day, Deb Kirwan, Jake Lang, Kate Valla, Joannis Obner, Mary Solberg, Daryl Malena, Ericka Obner, Dyana Straka, Sally Lewis*, and *Nikki Zimmerman*.

Activities for the Coming Week, April 19 – April 24

Lectionary Readings: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18.

- 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.

Sunday, April 25

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

FirstKids: Memorial Hall following the Conversation with the Children. Masks required.

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

