



# First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## EASTER SEASON THEME: ABIDING LOVE

May 16, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

### Prelude

Adagio from Italian Concerto

*J.S. Bach*

### 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

Lou Lamberty, liturgist

We come to be refreshed by the Spirit.

**We seek to abide in God's transforming love.**

Sorrow is turned into joy, and despair into hope.

**God's love and light guide us on the path.**

Fill us with courage and compassion, generosity and grace.

**Come, let us worship.**

### \*Processional Hymn

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

10. FALL 1898

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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 noth-ing 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

## **\*Invocation**

O God, open our hearts to receive your gracious love. Strengthen us to carry the Good News of your healing power. Let the Spirit speak truth to us and through us. Guide us to live as your faithful witnesses. 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**

### **Recognizing 2021 Graduates**

#### **Epistle Lesson**

1 John 5:1-13

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**

Faith, Truth, & Life

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

#### **Musical Interlude**

#### **\*Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

Gracious God, we confess our doubts that stifle our joy. Forgive us when we lack faith in you. Calm and comfort us when our fears outweigh our praise. Renew our spirits that we might enjoy the fullness of life in you. Amen.

#### **\* Assurance of Forgiveness**

We have been forgiven. We are beloved children of God. A Spirit of confidence and truth dwells within us. We are reborn into new and fuller life.

#### **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

Acension  
*Margot Wickman, cello*

*Bouma*

## \*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

Generous God, we offer you the fruits of our time, talents, and resources. We celebrate all that  
we have been given. May these offerings nourish and strengthen the community to grow  
spiritually, emotionally, and physically. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

## \*Recessional Hymn

Shall We Gather at the River

# Shall We Gather at the River

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Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,  
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,  
3 As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;  
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

*Refrain*

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7. 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**

Allegro

*J.S. Bach*

#### **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

**May 16, 2021**

**Prayers:** *Helen Sawtell*, now at Hillcrest Millard; *Tina Grossenstein*, who broke her leg.

**Joys:** *Matt & Elizabeth Lee*, celebrating the birth of *Jonathon Allan Lee* – proud grandparents are *Mike & Sandy Lee*, proud great aunt and uncle *Steve & Susan Dolezal*. *The Blazek* and *Rath families*, celebrating the marriage of *Sam Rath & Meghan Meyer*.

**Happy Birthday this week:** to *Krissy Straka*, *Martin Richards*, *Chris Andersen*, *Karen Wheeler*, *Steve Jackson*, and *Greg Higginbotham*.

**Thank you:** to *Margot Wickman* for sharing her musical gifts with us this morning.

**Graduate Recognition:** Congratulations to *Meg Fey* - University of Nebraska at Omaha, *Mitch Fey* - University of Nebraska at Lincoln, *Elliott Mitchell* - Westside High School, *Claire Bouma* - Omaha Central High School, *Elizabeth Grams* - Omaha Burke.

### Activities for the Coming Week, May 17 – May 22

*Lectionary Readings: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27;  
Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15.*

- Monday:** Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom. *Last rehearsal of the season.*  
Vespers, 8 p.m., FaceBook Live  
**Thursday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Congregational Care Ministry, 7:30 p.m.  
**Friday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
**Saturday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### Sunday, May 23

**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.*

