



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 6, 2021

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Concerto in G
Elizabeth Grams, violin

Mozart

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

Pat Lamberty, liturgist

We are here because we have heard the call of Jesus in our lives.

We are here because we want to be God's people.

We are here to challenge and support one another to rise up and follow.

We come seeking to be changed.

Let us open our hearts to the moving of the Spirit.

We want to be made whole by the living God.

We want to be true disciples of Christ.

Come, let us worship together.

*Processional Hymn

Comfort, Comfort O My People

ADVENT

101

Comfort, Comfort O My People

Isa. 40:1-8

Johannes Olearius, 1671
Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

1 "Com - fort, com- fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace," thus says our God;
2 For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er pla - ces plain!

Com - fort those whose hearts are shroud - ed, mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
Bid - ding us to make re - pen - tance since the realm of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes - si - ah's ho - ly reign.

Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
For God's glo - ry ev - er - more shall be known o'er all the world;

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver.
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Written for John the Baptist's Day, June 24, this hymn clearly reflects the Isaiah text. Johannes Olearius, a Lutheran pastor,

Tune: PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.8.8.
(FREU DICH SEHR)

***Invocation**

Speak to us, O God, for your servants are listening. Amid the noise of all that tries to claim our attention, we listen for your message. Inspire us to live up to the challenge of being created in your image. Show us how to witness for you in our daily actions. May we speak words that empower and perform deeds that glorify. 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

First Testament Lesson

2 Chronicles 36:22-23

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

Go Up

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Summer Choir

O Day of God Draw Near

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

When we forget that your ways lead all to the blessings of justice and mercy, please forgive us. When we forget that you want the most vulnerable to be safe and healthy, have mercy. When we forget that your dream is for all to share in abundance, redeem us. Amen.

*** Assurance**

In Christ we are forgiven all our failed efforts at community, and invited afresh to rejoin the family of God, seeking blessing for all.

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

Romance

Schumann

*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, take our gifts this day and use them so that we may be part of your great work in this world. Through our giving, bring justice and love closer to all, not only in our community but in the world beyond these walls. Strengthen our church and the whole United Church of Christ so that we grow together each day into a powerful voice for healing and peace. Amen.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion

God be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Give thanks to God.

It is right and good to give God thanks and praise.

Praise to you Divine Creator. Thank you for the gift of life, the beauty of nature, and your steadfast loving kindness. **Praise to you Divine Redeemer.** Thank you for sharing our human existence, from birth through death to everlasting life you have shown us a way worth emulating, bringing healing and hope to those most in need.

Praise to you Divine Sustainer. Thank you for the vision to see beyond the immediate, a calm in the midst of storm, the strength to build an ever-expanding community and the courage to bring about any change necessary within our lives. Today we join in communion with all the saints in every time and age to sing your glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution and Invitation to the Table

The Bread and the Cup Come, Gather in This Special Place

OLD HUNDREDTH

Come, gather in this special place; the table here is long and wide; for all who heed
communion's call, there's room for thousands side by side.

The grapes have yielded essence pure, a drink to quench the gravest thirst; the cup is passed
from hand to hand, and each will sense despair reversed.

The bread is freshly baked today, a fragrant feast of grain supplies; and even crumbs that dust
our palms will leave souls fully satisfied.

Repeat first verse

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Recessional Hymn**

Now Is the Time Approaching

Now Is the Time Approaching

609

Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859; alt.

Jer. 33:14-16; Isa. 11:6-9; 61:11

1 Now is the time ap - proach - ing, by proph - ets long fore - told,
 2 Let all that now di - vides us re - move and pass a - way,
 3 O long - ex - pect - ed dawn - ing, come with your cheer - ing ray!

when all shall dwell to - geth - er, se - cure and man - i - fold.
 like mists of ear - ly morn - ing be - fore the blaze of day.
 Yet shall the prom - ise beck - on and lead us not a - stray.

Let war be learned no long - er, let strife and tu - mult cease,
 Let all that now u - nites us more sweet and last - ing prove,
 O sweet an - tic - i - pa - tion! It cheers the watch - ers on

all earth a bless - ed gar - den that God shall tend in peace.
 a clos - er bond of un - ion, in bless - ed lands of love.
 to pray, and hope, and la - bor till Christ's new realm is come.

Jane Laurie Borthwick's text titled "Anticipation of Heaven" was published in her *Thoughts for Thoughtful Hours* (1859). George J. Webb, American organist and music publisher, originally wrote this music for a secular song, "Tie down the lock in heaven."

Tune: WEBB 7.6.7.6.D.
 George J. Webb, 1837

***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

Partita No. 3

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

June 6, 2021

Prayers: *Tracy Zaiss*, whose mother in law, *Virginia Zaiss*, died recently; *Kerrie Kleppin Winn's* father, who just entered hospice care.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Judy Blazek, Wesley Halbkat, Maxwell Halbkat, Bella Higginbotham, John Dimon, Cate Kratville-Wrinn, David Gepford, and Bill Pfeifer.*

Thank you: to *Elizabeth Grams* for sharing her musical gifts with us this morning.

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

Pie Day: but with cookies. On the patio following worship. Bring cookies to share!

Activities for the Coming Week, June 7 – June 12

Lectionary Readings: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20; Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 4:26-34.

- Monday:** Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Worship Ministry, 7 p.m., at church or on Zoom.
- Tuesday:** Council, 7 p.m., Zoom
- Wednesday:** Hiking with *Scott*, 9 a.m., leave from back parking lot. Bring a sack lunch.
Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- 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, June 13

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

Summer Choir: 10 a.m., Sanctuary

FirstYouth: 3 p.m., Obner State Park.

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

