



# First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 27, 2021

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

## Prelude

Partita in E minor

*J.S. Bach*

## 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

Marilyn Hammond, liturgist

Sing Praises to God, all you faithful ones.  
**God hears us in our fear and our sorrow.**  
Where there was no way,  
**God leads us in a new way.**  
Where there was no mercy,  
**God surprises us with fresh mercy.**  
Where there was weeping,  
**God invites us to step into a new dance.**

## \*Processional Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

# O God, Our Help in Ages Past

25

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 90:1-2, 4-5

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
soon bears us all away;  
We fly for-got-ten, as a dream  
fades at the o-pening day.

6 O God, our help in a-ges past,  
our hope for years to come,  
Still be our God while trou-bles last,  
and our e-ter-nal home!

*Watts, minister of a Congregational church in London, wrote theological and philosophical works and hundreds of "hymns of human composure" (everyday language). He augmented the congregational singing of psalms with a new style of hymnody.*

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.  
William Croft, 1708

## \*Invocation

O Faithful God, you yearn to be so close to us that we can know you in every breath, in every relationship. You long for us to trust in your power to bring to life new possibilities where there has been no hope. Meet us here today and teach us to recognize the ways of life into which you are leading us. So may our desires become your desires, our work become your work, and our community the place where you are sought and found. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## \*Gloria

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

Marian Fey

## First Testament Lesson

Malachi 4:1-3

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

New Realities

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

## Summer Choir

Lead Us from Death to Life

## \*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

When we fail to open our hearts, allowing the freshness of your grace to enter: God have mercy. When we close our eyes to your new and unexpected possibilities of healing and reconciliation: Christ have mercy. When we let fear overwhelm us, and cling to the security of what we know, instead of risking new steps toward your freedom and justice: God have mercy.

## \* Assurance

God's mercies are fresh every morning. In Christ God offers forgiving grace and welcome into a community of trust, abundance, and hope. Let us give thanks for the mercy of God.

## 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

Air

*J.S. Bach*

## \*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 a brighter day of justice and love, not just 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.**

### **\*Recessional Hymn**

**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Ein' Feste Burg, by Martin Luther, c. 1528;  
cr. F. H. Hedge, 1853

Later form of melody by  
Martin Luther, c. 1528

EIN' FESTE BURG, 8.7.8.7.66.66.7

1. A might-y for-tress is our God, a bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;  
2. Did we in our own strength con-fide, our striv-ing would be los-ing;  
3. And though this world, with dev-ils filled, should threat-en to un-do us,  
4. That word a-bove all earth-ly powers, no thanks to them, a-bid-eth;

1. our help-er he a-mid the flood of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing.  
2. were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choos-ing.  
3. we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to tri-umph through us.  
4. the Spir-it and the gifts are ours through him who with us sid-eth;

1. For still our an-cient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are  
2. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is he; Lord Sab-a-oth his  
3. The prince of dark-ness grim, we trem-ble not for him; his rage we can en-  
4. let goods and kin-dred go, this mor-tal life al-so; the bod-y they may

1. great; and, armed with cru-el hate, on earth is not his e-qual.  
2. name, from age to age the same, and he must win the bat-tle.  
3. dure, for lo! his doom is sure; one lit-tle word shall fell him.  
4. kill; God's truth a-bid-eth still; his king-dom is for-ev-er.

## **\*Benediction**

Deep in our hearts, we know that we are children of God.  
Remember who you are, then,  
and walk in the assurance of God's presence and love with you always,  
calling you beyond fear into belief and joy.  
May the grace and peace of God the Creator,  
the Redeemer, and the Sustainer  
come upon you this day and remain with you.

## **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**

Allemande

*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 27, 2021

**Prayers:** *Carolyn Baldwin*, recovering from hip replacement surgery; *Kerrie Kleppin Winn* and family, on the death of her father, *Bud Kleppin*.

**Happy Birthday this week:** to *Jason Grams, Jarett Gustafson, Norlan Van Gorp, Renee Jizba, Will Sharpe,* and *Michelyn Trautman*.

**Chancel flowers and decorations:** sponsored this month by *Steve & Susan Dolezal*

**Fair Trade Coffee:** sponsors this month are *Steve & Susan Dolezal*.

**Pastoral Relations Committee:** 11:30 am., *Scott's* office.

**REMINDER:** parking in the Blackstone parking lot is *free only on Sunday mornings*. All other times you need to pay. If you receive a parking ticket on a Sunday morning, please contact Scott or Sara and we will take care of it. You can always park in the lot behind the church, or on the street.

**Coffee & Flowers:** As we open back up and welcome more people to worship each Sunday, we're resuming coffee hour and placing more emphasis on decorating the chancel for those who are worshiping in the sanctuary. If you would like to support the Fair Trade coffee served during coffee hour or the flowers and decor that set the mood for worship, look for the signup sheets at the coffee station or contact *Tina Grossenstein* (coffee) or *Sara Sharpe* (flowers). Monthly Fair Trade coffee sponsorships are \$40 and suggested flower sponsorships are \$40. Your generosity will be recognized in the order of worship.

*Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.*



## **Activities for the Coming Week, June 28 – July 3**

*Lectionary Readings: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; Ezekiel 2:1-5; Psalm 123;  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13.*

- Monday:** Staff meeting, 11 a.m.
- Wednesday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Thursday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Mind Matters, 7 p.m., Zoom
- Friday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Saturday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

## **Sunday, July 4**

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

**Food Pantry:** Donations will be accepted at church. Checks may be mailed to FirstCentral with “pantry” in the memo line. Frozen meats are now being accepted (and are needed).

*The church calendar is also available at [www.firstcentral.org](http://www.firstcentral.org)  
Like us on **Facebook**. Follow us on **Twitter**. Watch us on **YouTube**.*