



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 11, 2021

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Repton

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Jeannie Bates

***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

John Austin, liturgist

Come, let us come into the House of the Holy One with song and dance.

We have come to worship our God, the Creator of heaven and earth, seas and rivers, and all that dwells within.

The Lord of the Dance beckons us to join in this time of celebration and joy...

That we might know that we are gathered in God's holy place.

We join the psalmist with songs of the glory of the God of Hosts.

We seek to know God's faithfulness and wisdom. Let us enter God's rhythm of life and follow in the ways of the Word. God will bring us home where dancing and joy will never end!

***Processional Hymn**

Let Justice Flow like Streams

Let Justice Flow like Streams

588

Jane Parker Huber, 1984

Amos 5:14-15, 24; 7:7-8

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spark - ling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

En - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
An ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
And jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

This is one of two hymns Jane Parker Huber wrote for special events emphasizing economic justice for women at the time of

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.
Aaron Williams' New Universal Psalmist, 1770

Words Copyright 1981 by Jane Parker Huber. From A SINGING FAITH. Used by permission of Westminster/John Knox Press.

*Invocation

Holy One, who we so often don't recognize, come into our midst and make your song known! Renew our strength, refresh our imaginations, retool our weary efforts to carry your Peace into the world. Amaze us with your power to make all things new and let us face your world with curiosity and hope. In the name of the One who leads us on the Way, Jesus, the Christ. 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

Dena Higginbotham

Second Testament Lesson

Mark 2:1-12

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

Willing

Rev. Jeannie Bates

***Hymn**

For the Faithful Who Have Answered

COMMUNION OF SAINTS

384

For the Faithful Who Have Answered

Heb. 11:4-12:2

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1986; alt.

1 For the faith - ful who have an - swered when they heard your call to serve,
 2 Man - y minds have glimpsed the prom - ise; man - y hearts have yearned to see;
 3 For this cloud of faith - ful wit - ness, for the com - mon life we share,

for the man - y ways you led them, test - ing will and stretch - ing nerve,
 man - y souls have heard you call - ing us to great - er lib - er - ty.
 for the work of peace and jus - tice, for the gos - pel that we bear,

For their work and for their wit - ness as they strove a - gainst the odds,
 Some have fall - en in the strug - gle; oth - ers still are press - ing on.
 For the vi - sion that our home - land is your love— deep, high, and broad—

for their cour - age and o - be - dience, we give thanks and praise, O God.
 You are not a - shamed to own us; we give thanks and praise, O God.
 for the dif - ferent roads we trav - el, we give thanks and praise, O God.

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we confess that too often we have not been open to the rhythms of life you offer to us. We let ourselves be put off your pace and allow ourselves to wander off into our own songs. Too often the melodies of the world confuse us. We have led ourselves and others to paths that are not according to your loving pace and direction. Help us pay attention with all of our senses. Make our dancing faithful; help us be willing to take the risks that are part of letting you lead. Pull us back into your rhythms. Clean our hearts, purify our hands and steady our feet that we might know and share your blessings.

*** Assurance**

The God of Hosts assures us that if we trust God's Word, we will be led back to the songs that God would have us sing. God is eager to show us the path home. Be willing to accept the offer of the new song we have been given through Jesus the Christ.

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

Nocturne

Boulangier

***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**

Beloved Jesus, you surprise us by naming us your friends. Your dance of faithfulness and life,
open before us a way of unexpected justice, mutuality and joy. Take these gifts and bless them
and let them serve your people at home and throughout the world, all of us, your cherished
friends.

***Recessional Hymn**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

In the Midst of New Dimensions

391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil-grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea - gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

***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

Cortege

Boulangier

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.

A Personal Note from Today's Preacher:

Thank you and Pastor Scott for inviting me to lead in worship with you today. After agreeing to preach this Sunday, I realized the day falls on my beloved mother's birthday! The last time I remember preaching at First Central was the Sunday after Christmas, 2013. I was practicing my delivery at home one more time when one of my sisters called to say that Mom had died that morning. The memory of it is bittersweet, as she was my best friend. The loss is immense, but I am so blessed to have her for a mom and equally blessed to have my church family to be with that morning. I simply included our family in the pastoral prayer time. Members and strangers alike were so kind and empathetic after worship. I won't forget. We often dress down a bit for summer worship, but today I chose to wear my robe, in honor of my Mom who made it for my baccalaureate service at seminary that graduation weekend so many years ago. Thank you again, for sharing in this opportunity to remember her kindly, as she was kind to so many.

Announcements

July 11, 2021

Joys: *Charlene & Jim Wozny*, celebrating the birth of great granddaughter *Lula Ann Bergan!*

Happy Birthday this week: to *Al Dietrich, Steve Dolezal, Pete Fey, Peg Peterson, Max Schneider, Jeffery Lang, Sherry Smith*, and *Megan Holmstedt*.

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

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

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

Vacation Bible School: sign up now! **July 19-23**, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Contact *Susan Dolezal*, sdolezal1119@gmail.com, or *Sandy Lee*, srlee99@cox.net. Preschool – 11 y.o.

FirstYouth: 2 – 7 p.m., *Rudd's* cabin

Save the Date! Regather at the All-Church Intergenerational Retreat on Saturday, **September 25th**, 2021. Yes, one day only. We'll be regathering, rejoicing, and *talking* at Mallet Lodge in Platte River State Park between 9:30 AM and 8:30 PM. A relaxed schedule of optional activities is planned, with only lunch, dinner and the egg drop having precise-ish start times. We expect to release all our reserved cabins, but any group/family wishing to rent an entire cabin for the weekend should contact *Judy Bouma* by the end of July. More information and registration forms will be appearing soon.

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.



Activities for the Coming Week, July 12 – July 17

Lectionary Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.

- Monday:** Staff meeting, 11 a.m., Pastor's Study.
- Tuesday:** ***Norma Nelson*** celebration of life, 11 a.m., First Central Council, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- 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, July 18

Bible Study: 9:15 a.m. Gospel of Mark, led by ***Rev. Jeannie Bates***. Third Floor Parlor. *Through August 29th.*

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

Pastoral Relations: 11:30 a.m., Pastor's Study

*The church calendar is also available at www.firstcentral.org
Like us on **Facebook**. Follow us on **Twitter**. Watch us on **YouTube**.*