



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUMMER THEME: RESTORE

July 18, 2021

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Sonata, Opus 10 #3, Largo

Beethoven

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

Barb and Grant Switzer, liturgists

Come away and rest for a while.

We have come for relief from life's turmoil.

God's steadfast love surrounds us.

We are God's children, welcomed and made to feel at home.

This is a time for renewal.

We are reminded of God's enduring faithfulness.

*Processional Hymn

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
 Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cyseor 1839

***Invocation**

We gather hoping to see something new that restores our joy and ignites our imagination. We call on your steadfast love for assurance and healing. We sense your longing for our wholeness. Draw closer to us as we seek you today. 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

First Testament Lesson

Zechariah 1:1-17

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

Seeing

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

***Hymn**

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sweet Hour of Prayer

William Walford, 1845; alt.

1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
 2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
 3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear

and bids me at my Ma-ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.
 of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for your re-turn!
 to One whose truth and faith-ful-ness en-gage the wait-ing soul to bless.

In sea-sons of dis-tress and grief, my soul has of-ten found re-lief,
 With them I has-ten to the place where I would know my Sav-ior's face,
 And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be-lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,

and oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare by your re-turn, sweet hour of prayer!
 And glad-ly take my sta-tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!
 I'll cast a-way my ev-ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

***Prayer of Confession**

God of all times and places, we confess that we have wandered after the idols of this age. We have failed so often to act with justice, love, and peace. We have broken the covenant and forsaken your ways. Compassionate and faithful parent, hear our prayer and have mercy upon us. Forgive us and lead us into new life. Amen.

*** Assurance**

We are the beloved children of God. We are God's forgiven and forgiving people. God dwells with us, offering healing and hope.

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

Sonatina, Opus 55, #3
Cynthia Rose Garcia, pianist

Fr. Kuhlau

***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**

Receive our best, gracious God, as we offer ourselves along with these tokens of thanks. Establish your rule in our midst so we may proclaim your reign in the world. Send us where you need us most. Use our gifts to build community. Teach us to live as siblings who respond in love to each other's needs. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

Arise, Your Light Is Come

Arise, Your Light Is Come

Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21

Ruth Duck, 1973



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
 Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 Bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
 William Walter, 1872

*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

Sonata, Opus 10 #2, Finale

Beethoven

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

July 18, 2021

Prayers: *Ben Little* and family, mourning the deaths of stepfather *Dave Paladino* and cousin *Bear Nichols*, killed in a plane crash last week; family of *Leo Smith, Elizabeth Wearin's* brother in law, who died unexpectedly last week.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Kathy Felger, Wes Negrete, John Hill, Shirley Jensen, Gary McConnell, Jim Schalles, Robert O'Donnell, Skip Blazek, Tina Grossenstein, Dave Sharpe, Allison Beaman, and Luther MacNaughton.*

Chancel flowers and decorations: sponsored this month by *Steve & Susan Dolezal, Jeannie Bates, and Sue Arkfeld.*

Thank you: to *Cynthia Rose Garcia* for sharing her musical gifts with us this morning.

Fair Trade Coffee: sponsors this month are *Steve & Susan Dolezal, Jeannie Bates, and Chad & Laura Mitchell.*

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

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

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 19 – July 24

*Lectionary Readings: 2 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalm 4; 2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-18;
Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21.*

- Monday:** Vacation Bible School, 9 a.m. – noon (*through Friday*)
Staff meeting, 11 a.m., Pastor's Study.
- Wednesday:** 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.
CEOs (Congregationalists Eating Out), 6 p.m., Charlestons, 75th & Dodge.
RSVP by **July 21** to **Gary or Kathy McConnell**.
- Saturday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, July 25

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.

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

Ice Cream Social: after worship. Bring your favorite – homemade or store-bought!

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