



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUMMER THEME: RESTORE

July 25, 2021

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Lisa Lybeck, pianist/organist

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

Mark Winn, liturgist

We are seeking after you, Loving God, for you are our refuge.

Your power is at work within and among us, even when we are unaware.

God's presence evokes our joyous worship.

We come to be strengthened in our inner being.

We are here to offer our best for the good of all.

Use us to accomplish far more than we can imagine.

*Processional Hymn

Come, We Who Love God's Name

COMMUNION OF SAINTS

379

Come, We Who Love God's Name

Ps. 48:1-2; Heb. 12:22-24; Rev. 4:2-11

Isaac Watts, 1707; alt.

1 Come, we who love God's name, and let our joys be known;
2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
3 God's grace on earth is found, the seeds of glo - ry sown;
4 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets
5 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - ery tear be dry;

To - geth - er God's great love pro - claim, and thus sur-round the throne.
But we our thanks and praise will bring for love so deep and broad.
Ce - les - tial fruits on earth - ly ground from faith and hope have grown.
Be - fore we reach the heav - en - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets.
We're trav - eling through Em - man - uel's ground, to great - er worlds on high.

A story concerning this hymn holds that the pastor of a New England church once asked the choir to lead the singing of the second stanza on a Sunday when it threatened to "refuse to sing"

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.
Williams' New Universal Psalmist, 1770
Alternate setting: MARCHING TO ZION

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*Invocation

Generous God, from whom comes every gift, challenge us, inspire us, feed us, so that we might realize the bounty we receive from you. Open our ears to hear the prophets' words, and strengthen our wills to follow fearlessly where Christ leads, to your glory, and for the benefit of all humankind. 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

Susan Dolezal and Sandy Lee

First Testament Lesson

Zechariah 8:1-13

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

The Remnant

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

*Hymn

O Holy City, Seen of John

O Holy City, Seen of John

613

Walter Russell Bowie, 1910; alt.

Rev. 21:1-22:5; Heb. 11:16

1 O ho - ly cit - y, seen of John, where Christ, the Lamb, does reign,
2 O shame to us who rest con - tent while lust and greed for gain
3 Give us, O God, the strength to build the cit - y that has stayed
4 Al - read - y in the mind of God that cit - y is pre - pared:

with - in whose four - square walls shall come no night, nor need, nor pain,
in street and shop and ten - e - ment wring gold from hu - man pain,
too long a dream, whose laws are love, whose ways are your own ways,
oh, how its splen - dor chal - leng - es the souls that great - ly dare,

And where the tears are wiped from eyes that shall not weep a - gain.
And bit - ter lips in deep de - spair cry, "Christ has died in vain!"
And where the sun that blaz - es is your grace for all our days.
Yes, bids us seize the whole of life and build its glo - ry there.

Walter Russell Bowie, Episcopal priest and seminary professor

Tune: MORNING SONG 8.6.8.6.8.6.

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

God, you know our secret hearts. You observe our unfaithfulness. We are corrupted by greed, self-indulgence, and desire to be entertained. We do not take responsibility for our misconduct, our abuse of power, our lack of trust. We sometimes have little vision to see beyond immediate circumstances or to embrace new possibilities. We miss the signs of your grace and resist the empowerment of your Spirit. Transform us, O God, with your boundless forgiveness. Amen.

*** Assurance**

We are rescued, delivered, and restored to fullness of life in God. We are grounded in love so that we might share it with others. We are invited to live into fuller dimensions of life, centered in faith and trust. Let us rejoice.

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

***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**

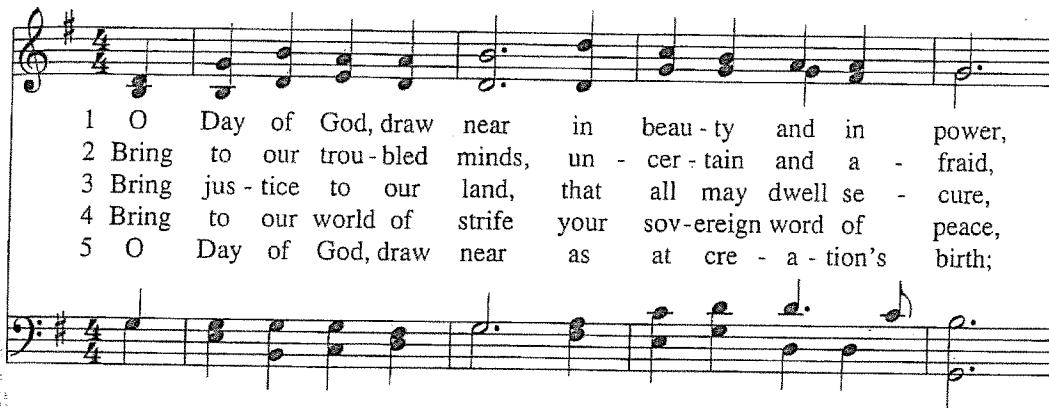
O Day of God, Draw Near

O Day of God, Draw Near

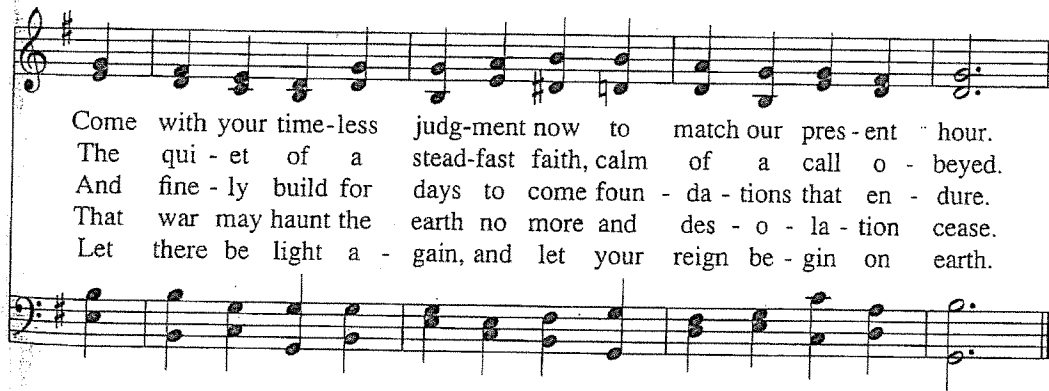
611

R. B. Y. Scott, 1937; alt.

Ps. 105:7; 2 Pet. 3:8-15



1 O Day of God, draw near in beau - ty and in power,
2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid,
3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure,
4 Bring to our world of strife your sov - ereign word of peace,
5 O Day of God, draw near as at cre - a - tion's birth;



Come with your time - less judg - ment now to match our pres - ent hour.
The qui - et of a stead - fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.
And fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.
That war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.
Let there be light a - gain, and let your reign be - gin on earth.

R. B. Y. Scott was a theologian, Old Testament scholar, and

Tune: ST. MICHAEL S.M.

*Benediction

Postlude

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 25, 2021

Prayers: past member *Stella Gardner*, who died this week.

Joys: *Charlene & Jim Wozny*, celebrating the birth of yet another great grandchild - *Reese Avery Nohl!*

Happy Birthday this week: to *Miriam Eckblade, Sharon Price, Jeremy Acker, Jennifer Forbes Baily*, and *Katie Del Conte*.

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

Thank you: to *Lisa Lybeck* for sharing her musical gifts with us in Stephen's absence.

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

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

Ice Cream Social: in the Parlor after worship.

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 26 – July 31

*Lectionary Readings: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15;
Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35.*

Monday: 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.
FirstYouth to Okoboji (*through Sunday*)

Friday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, August 1

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.

Food Pantry: Donations will be accepted at church. Checks may be mailed to First Central 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
Like us on **Facebook**. Follow us on **Twitter**. Watch us on **YouTube**.*