



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUMMER THEME: RESTORE

August 1, 2021

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Meditation

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

Chris Andersen, liturgist

Draw near to God, who has heard us.

God calls us together for prayer and praise.

Let us open ourselves to God's steadfast love and compassion.

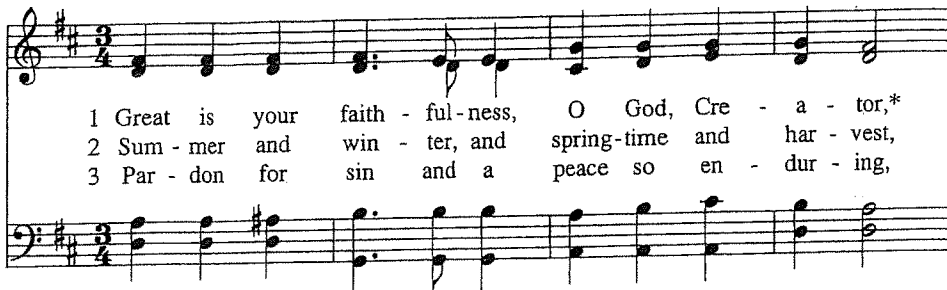
We receive the things God offers us today and each new day!

Grant us wisdom and openness to God's Word.

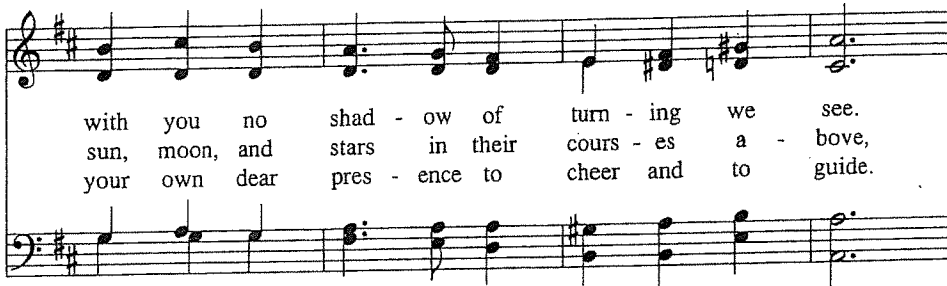
May its teachings energize our bodies and spirits.

***Processional Hymn**

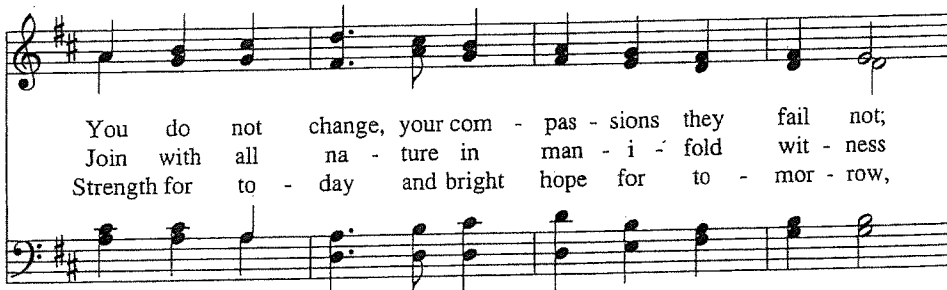
Great Is Your Faithfulness



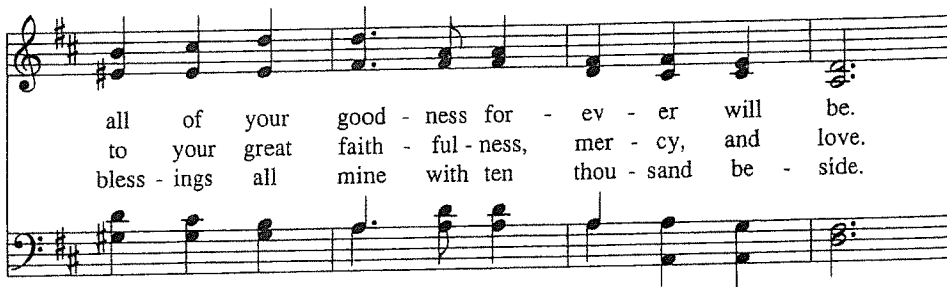
1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,*
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,



with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
 your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.



You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.



Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by
 morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have need-ed your
 hand has pro-vid-ed, Great is your faith-ful-ness, God, un-to me!

*Invocation

We hear you calling us, Loving God, to a life of humility, courage, and hope. Lead us into new depths of trust and understanding. Help us to overcome our fear and reluctance. Inspire us to do great things. 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

Liz Patterson

First Testament Lesson

Nehemiah 1:1-11

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

Compassion

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

***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**

Rev. Charlene Wozny

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your child Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*** Assurance**

Almighty God has mercy on us, forgives us all our sins, strengthens us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keeps us in eternal life.

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

Questo Amor

***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.

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 Black Hymnal, No. 335

Come, Gather in This Special Place

335

Phil Porter, 1991

Unison Em D Em

1 & 4 Come, gath - er in this spe - cial place; the ta - ble here is

2 The grapes have yield - ed es - sence pure, a drink to quench the

3 The bread is fresh - ly baked to - day, a fra - grant feast of

CM7 D G Bm D Am Em

long and wide; For all who heed com - mu - nion's call, there's
grav - est thirst; The cup is passed from hand to hand, and
grain sup - plied; And e - ven crumbs that dust our palms will

C D Em

room for thou - sands side by side.
each will sense de - spair re - versed.
leave souls ful - ly sat - is - fied.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Recessional Hymn**

Forward Through the Ages

Heb. 11; 1 Cor. 12

Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1908; alt.

1 For - ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,
 2 Wide grows God's do - min - ion, reign of love and peace;
 3 Not a - lone we con - quer, not a - lone we fall;

move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine;
 for it we must la - bor, till all striv - ings cease.
 in each loss or tri - umph, lose or tri - umph all.

Gifts in dif - fer - ing mea - sure, hearts of one ac - cord,
 Proph - ets have pro - claimed it, teach - ers tes - ti - fied,
 Bound by God's far pur - pose in one liv - ing whole,

man - i - fold in ser - vice, one the sure re - ward.
 po - ets sung its glo - ry, mar - tyrs for - it died.
 move we on to - geth - er to the shin - ing goal.

Frederick Hosmer, advanced at Harvard and ordained to the

Tune: ST GERTRUDE 6565 D with refrain

Refrain 377 con't.

For-ward through the a - ges, in un - bro - ken line,

Move the faith - ful spir - its at the call di - vine.

***Benediction**

Benediction Response

Bouma

Postlude

Exultemus

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

August 1, 2021

Happy Birthday this week: to *Claire Bouma, Greg Switzer, Janet Acker, Melanie Naughtin, Kamaal Patterson, Dana Raabe,* and *Adalie Villatoro.*

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

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).

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

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, August 2 – August 7

*Lectionary Readings: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; 1 Kings 19:4-8;
Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51.*

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.

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

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

Sunday, August 8

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).

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

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