



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUMMER THEME: RESTORE

August 8, 2021

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Sarabande in B flat

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

Lyn Bouma, liturgist

We wait for God, who deals gently with us.

We watch for God's appearance among us.

We experience your steadfast love, here and now.

Each new morning, we rely on you.

We are thankful for the new day you have given us.

Praise and thanks to you, O God.

*Processional Hymn

God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale

32 2-23-97
4-27-97

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

1 Thess. 5: 18; Ps. 136

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

(Introduction) G G7 Unison C Em Am Dm

1 God of the spar-row God of the whale
 2 God of the earth-quake God of the storm
 3 God of the rain-bow God of the cross
 4 God of the hun-gry God of the sick
 5 God of the neigh-bor God of the foe
 6 God of the a-ges God near at hand

G7 C FM7 E7 Am Em

God of the swirl-ing stars How does the crea-ture say
 God of the trum-pet blast How does the crea-ture cry
 God of the emp-ty grave How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prod-i-gal How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prun-ing hook How does the crea-ture say
 God of the lov-ing heart How do your chil-dren say

FM7 Em7 Am Dm 1-5 Gsus4 G 6 C

Awe How does the crea-ture say Praise
 Woe How does the crea-ture cry Save
 Grace How does the crea-ture say Thanks
 Care How does the crea-ture say Life
 Love How does the crea-ture say Peace
 Joy How do your chil-dren say Home.

After forty years in the ministry, Jaroslav Vajda wrote this text to provoke answers to how and why we serve God. By creating

Tune: ROEDER 5.4.6.7.7.
Carl F. Schalk, 1983

***Invocation**

Loving God, we come to you with our many needs and know that you are listening. Some of us have weighty decisions to make. Some of us are facing battles we cannot win. Some of us have experienced painful loss. Some of us are anxious and uncertain. Some of us are also joyful, celebrating blessings. We come to you in prayer and worship. May we experience healing, hope, and the fullness of life with you. Amen.

***Gloria**

Glorify 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

Nehemiah 2:1-20

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

Let's Start!

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

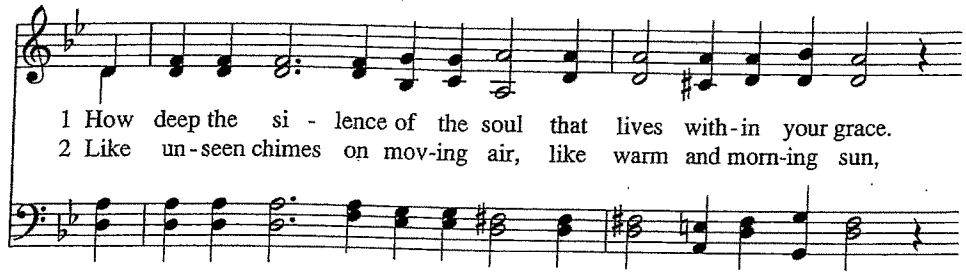
***Hymn**

How Deep the Silence of the Soul

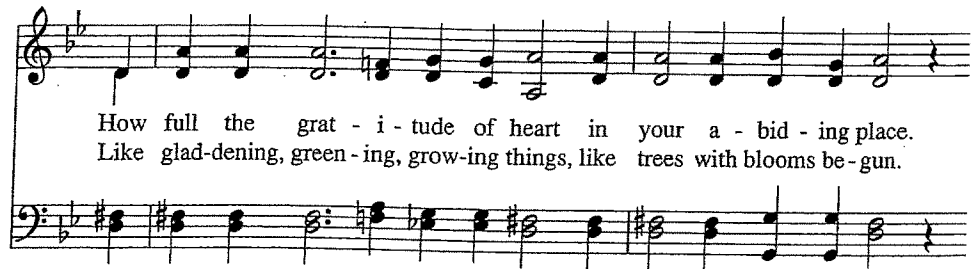
How Deep the Silence of the Soul

509

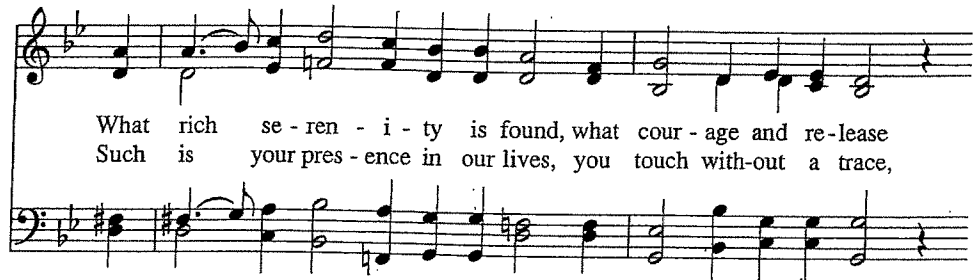
Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1989



1 How deep the si - lence of the soul that lives with-in your grace.
2 Like un - seen chimes on mov-ing air, like warm and morn-ing sun,



How full the grat - i - tude of heart in your a - bid - ing place.
Like glad-dening, green - ing, grow-ing things, like trees with blooms be-gun.



What rich se - ren - i - ty is found, what cour - age and re-lease
Such is your pres - ence in our lives, you touch with-out a trace,



when wis - dom teach - es us to seek the gen-tle path to peace.
un - til we turn and find our-selves held fast in your em - brace.

This hymn by Sylvia Dunstan, entitled "Morning Meditation," recounts the Canadian writer's experience one February when she left cold, snowy Toronto to visit her mother in California. There she enjoyed meditating in the garden that was abloom with camellias.

Tune: TALLIS' THIRD TUNE C.M.D.
Thomas Tallis, c. 1557
For another key, see 178

***Prayer of Confession**

We want to be faithful. We want to trust. We want to be compassionate. We want to be courageous. But so often we shut you out of our decision-making. We are overcome by fear. We build barriers between ourselves and other people. We do not open ourselves. Help us, gracious God. Forgive us our sins and change us. Amen.

*** Assurance**

God redeems us. Forgiveness is ours to receive and to share. The gift of grace we have received grows larger in our lives as we extend it to others we encounter. We can be the people God has dreamed we might be.

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

Meditation

***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**

Thank you God for your continuing providence. Thank you for hearing our prayers. Thank you for inspiring our work. Thank you for encouraging us. In gratitude, we offer these gifts that they might be used in service to all humanity. Together let us bring security, faith, and joy to all people. Amen.

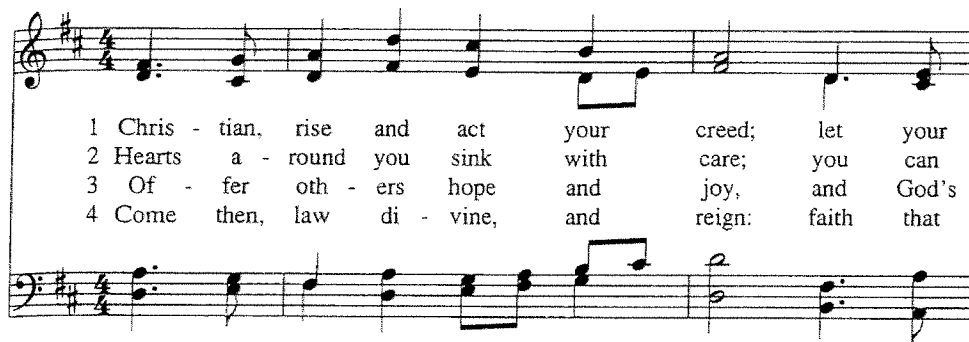
***Recessional Hymn**

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

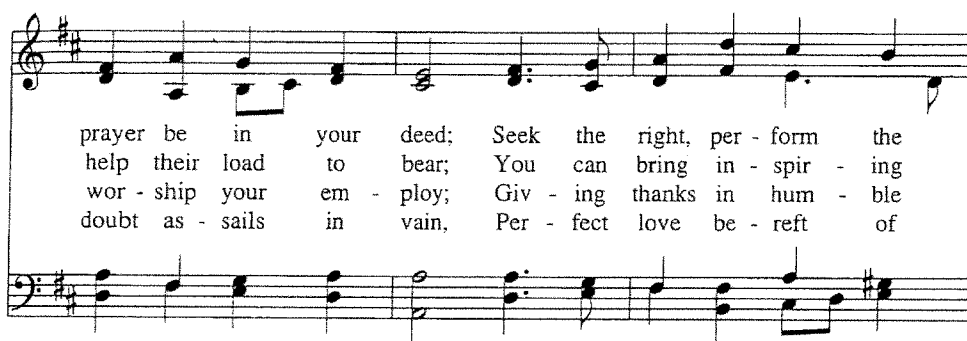
Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

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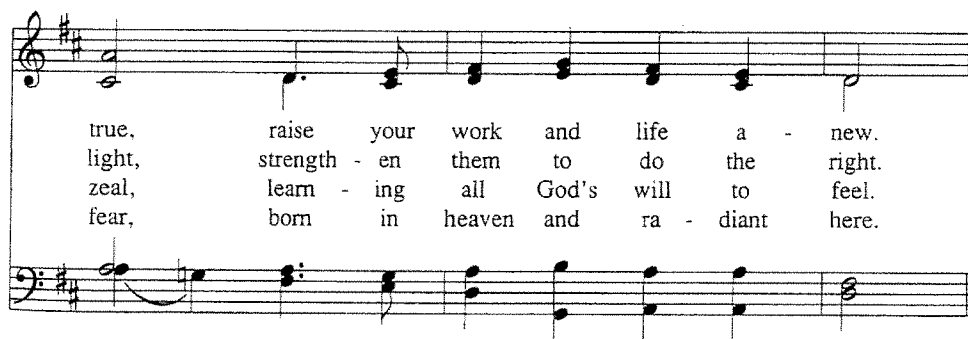
Francis Albert Rollo Russell, 1893; alt.



1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your
2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can
3 Of - fer oth - ers hope and joy, and God's
4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that



prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the
help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing
wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble
doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - reft of



true, raise your work and life a - new.
light, strength - en them to do the right.
zeal, learn - ing all God's will to feel.
fear, born in heaven and ra - diant here.

Francis Albert Rollo Russell was a writer on scientific subjects and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. This hymn was first published in the Pilgrim Hymnal (1904). The tune originated with a text used for the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

Tune: INNOCENTS 7.7.7.7.
The Parish Choir, 1850

*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

Allemande in E

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

August 8, 2021

Prayers: for *Desi Steffen*, who injured her arm last weekend in Okoboji.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Amy Druliner, Barb Switzer, Nancy Dugan, Vickie Jones,* and *Lennie Jefferson*.

Chancel flowers and decorations: sponsored this month by *Renee Jizba, Bob Vassell*.

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.

Fair Trade Coffee: sponsors this month *Terry & Pam Beranek, Lou and Pat Lamberty*.

Parrish School "Backpack" to School Supply Project: Supply lists available in the Parlor or on FaceBook. Supplies need to be returned by **August 15th**.

Thank You: from *Al Nelson*, for your visits, gifts, cards and prayers in memory of *Norma*.

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. Registration forms available in the Parlor.

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.



Activities for the Coming Week, August 9 – August 14

*Lectionary Readings: 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Proverbs 9:1-6;
Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58.*

Monday: Staff meeting, 11 a.m., Pastor's Study.
Eves, 7 p.m., Prehistoric Putt, 11134 Q St. \$9 for 18 holes.

Tuesday: Council, 7 p.m., Parlor or Zoom.

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., Zoom.

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

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

Sunday, August 15

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.

Parrish School "Backpack" to School Supply Project: supplies due today!

Church Chat: 11:30 a.m., Pastor's Study, on the lower level. If you have been thinking about joining our church family, or are just curious about First Central, please attend! Bring your coffee and donuts – we look forward to talking with you.

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