



# First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## SUMMER THEME: RESTORE

August 15, 2021

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

**Prelude**

Deep River

**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**

Rita Grossenstein, liturgist

God is gracious, merciful, and trustworthy.

**The works of God are all around us.**

We seek to listen to God's Word.

**God will give to each of us a wise and discerning heart.**

Come, as a beloved community of the redeemed.

**We are called to faithfulness, as God is faithful.**

Learn of God's compassion and mercy.

**Praise the Lord with all our hearts!**

**\*Processional Hymn**

Awake, Awake to Love and Work

## Awake, Awake to Love and Work

*Geoffrey A. Studdert-Kennedy, 1921; alt.*

1 A - wake, a - wake to love and work! The lark is in the sky;  
 2 Come, let your voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of praise;  
 3 To give and give, and give a - gain, as God's own grace is free;

the fields are wet with dia - mond dew; The worlds a - wake to cry  
 See how the gi - ant sun soars up, God's gift for all your days!  
 To spend your-self nor count the cost; To serve most glo - rious - ly

their prais-es to the Fount of Life; Christ Je - sus pass-es by.  
 So let the love of Je - sus come and set your soul a - blaze,  
 the God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be.

*Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy was known in the United States as an eloquent preacher. He was a famed chaplain (Woodbine Willie) in World War I and later chaplain to the King of England. This hymn is part of a longer poem, "At a Harvest Festival."*

Tune: MORNING SONG 8.6.8.6.8.6.  
 Kentucky Harmony, 1816  
 Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

## **\*Invocation**

We want to go forth into the world with trusting hearts. We seek to work with confidence and humility. We desire God's wisdom. We want to share compassion with all whom we encounter. Send your Spirit now upon us, Dear God, and empower us to be your people.  
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

## **First Testament Lesson**

Nehemiah 3:1-14

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**

Set to Work

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

## **\*Hymn**

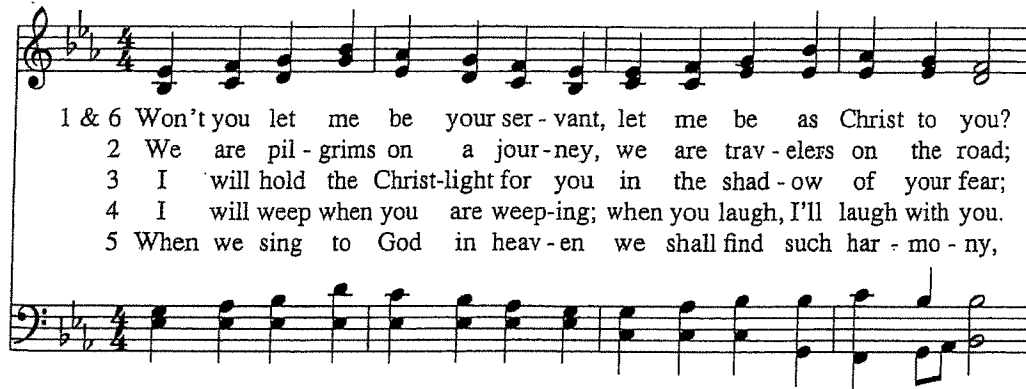
Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

# Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

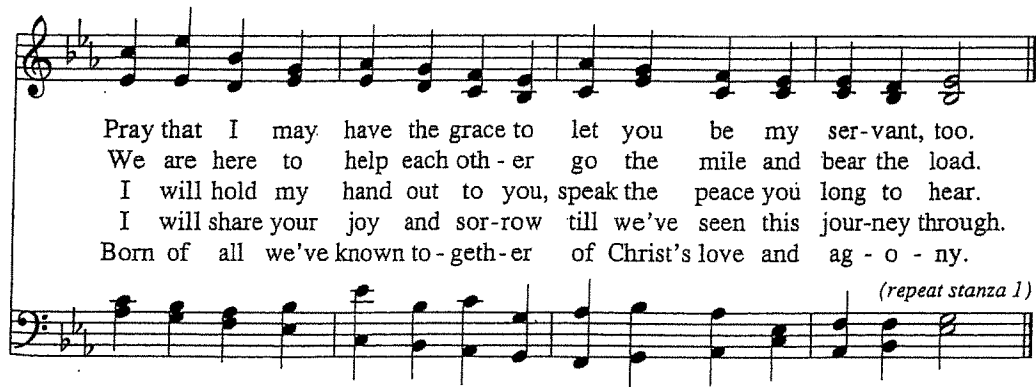
539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser- vant, let me be as Christ to you?  
2 We are pil- grims on a jour-ney, we are trav- elers on the road;  
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad- ow of your fear;  
4 I will weep when you are weep- ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
5 When we sing to God in heav- en we shall find such har- mo- ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser- vant, too.  
We are here to help each oth- er go the mile and bear the load.  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
I will share your joy and sor- row till we've seen this jour-ney through.  
Born of all we've known to- geth- er of Christ's love and ag- o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Bill Gillard was born in England and later made his home

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8787

## **\*Prayer of Confession**

All Wise God, we thank you for giving us this time to look into our words, thoughts, and deeds. We confess that we fool ourselves into believing that we possess all of the knowledge that we need. We often fail to remember that we are always in your presence. Help us to see you and to hear your voice still speaking to us. Guide us on the ways of love and truth. Empower us with the Holy Spirit, so that we might live each day according to your will and desire for us and for your world. In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

## **\* Assurance**

In God's wisdom and compassion, we receive grace that we might live anew, unburdened by the obstacles and pride of the past. Continue to feast on the living bread which is given to us each day. Give thanks to God who lifts us up with the gift of forgiveness.

## **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**

Wondrous Love

## **\*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**

Your generosity abounds, loving God. You surround us with people who love us. You bring healing to our minds, bodies, and spirits. You fill us with curiosity and creativity. You adorn the world with beauty and wonder. Thank you God for this opportunity to share with others some of what we have received from you. Help us to use all your gifts as you intend. Amen.

## **\*Recessional Hymn**

We Would Be Building

## We Would Be Building

Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49; 1 Esd. 5:56-7:15

Purd E. Deitz, 1935; alt.

1 We would be build - ing; tem - ples still un - done o'er crum - bling  
 2 Teach us to build; up - on the sol - id rock we set the  
 3 O keep us build - ing, Sav - ior; may our hands ne'er fal - ter

walls their cross - es scarce - ly lift, wait - ing till love can  
 dream that hard - ens in - to deed, ribbed with fine steel, both  
 when the dream is in our hearts, when to our ears there

raise the bro - ken stone, and hearts cre - a - tive  
 time and change to mock, the un - fail - ing pur - pose  
 come di - vine com - mands and all the pride of

bridge the hu - man rift. We would be build - ing,  
 of our no - blest creed. Teach us to build; O  
 sin - ful will de - parts. We build with you; O

Ar - chi - tect Di - vine, re - veal the shape of life in your de - sign.  
 Mak - er, lend us sight to see the tow - ers gleam - ing in the light.  
 grant en - dur - ing worth un - til your prom - ised realm shall come on earth.

## **\*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**

St. Anne

#### **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 15, 2021**

**Prayers:** for *Elizabeth Wearin*, whose brother *Andy Wearin* died last week; *Katie Sawtell Del Conte*, on the death of her mother, *Helen Sawtell*.

**Happy Birthday this week:** to *Ramires Ajang, Ashley Girvan, Nita Richards, Sue Arkfeld, Shelley Kiel, Jared Dimon, Don Ferber, Patton Grams, and Celia Horobik*.

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

**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 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! We look forward to talking with you.

**Register:** for the **All-Church Intergenerational Retreat**, held Saturday, **September 25th, 2021**. Mallet Lodge in Platte River State Park between 9:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Registration forms available in the Parlor.

*Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.*





## **Activities for the Coming Week, August 16 – August 21**

*Lectionary Readings: 1 Kings 8: (1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69.*

- Monday:** Staff meeting, 11 a.m., Pastor's Study.
- Tuesday:** Confirmation worship planning, 6 p.m. *Obner's*, 7607 Corby Circle.
- Wednesday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Thursday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Ministry Support, 7:00 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 22**

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

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

**FirstKids:** will not be held this week.

*The church calendar is also available at [www.firstcentral.org](http://www.firstcentral.org)  
Like us on **Facebook**. Follow us on **Twitter**. Watch us on **YouTube**.*