



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUMMER THEME: RESTORE

August 29, 2021

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Cape Town

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

Michael Pack, liturgist

Come and listen. For God seeks to teach us.

We are drawn to God and leap for joy at God's attention.

God's image is a part of each one of us.

God's grace has been poured into our lives.

Wisdom and understanding are offered to us.

We will honor God by honoring our neighbors.

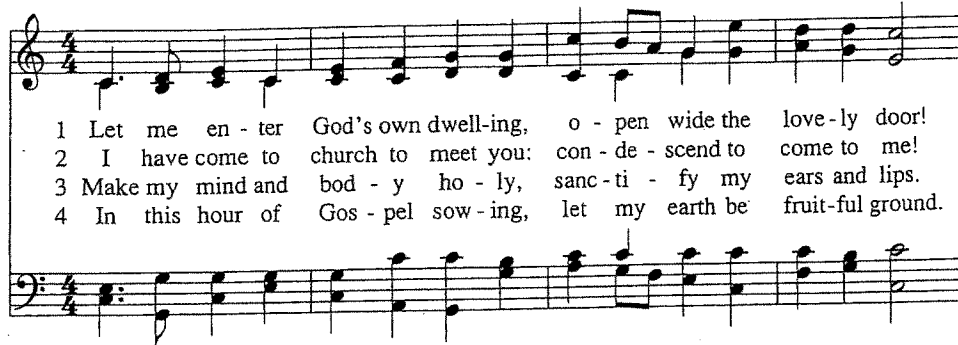
***Processional Hymn**

Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling

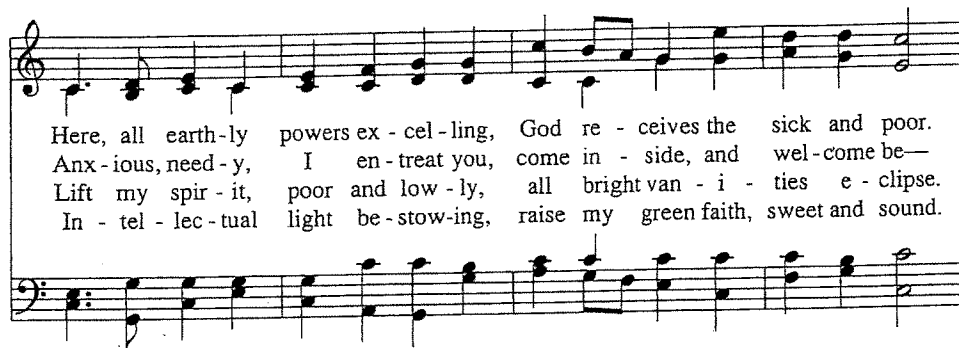
Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling

67

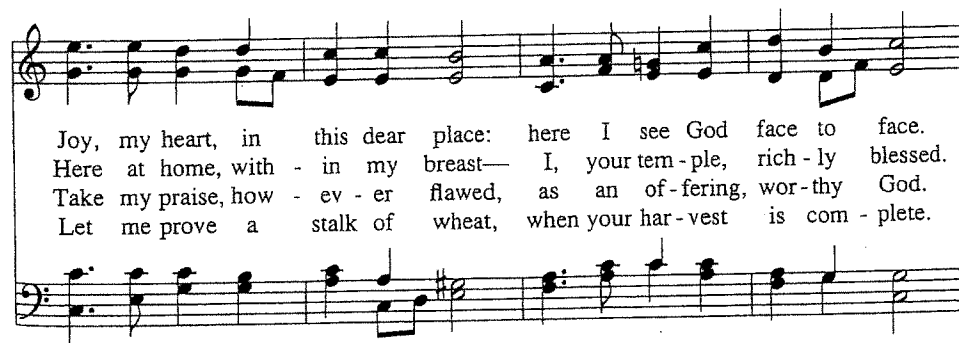
Benjamin Schmolck, 1732
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993



1 Let me en - ter God's own dwell - ing, o - pen wide the love - ly door!
2 I have come to church to meet you: con - de - scend to come to me!
3 Make my mind and bod - y ho - ly, sanc - ti - fy my ears and lips.
4 In this hour of Gos - pel sow - ing, let my earth be fruit - ful ground.



Here, all earth - ly powers ex - cel - ling, God re - ceives the sick and poor.
Anx - ious, need - y, I en - treat you, come in - side, and wel - come be—
Lift my spir - it, poor and low - ly, all bright van - i - ties e - clipse.
In - tel - lec - tual light be - stow - ing, raise my green faith, sweet and sound.



Joy, my heart, in this dear place: here I see God face to face.
Here at home, with - in my breast— I, your tem - ple, rich - ly blessed.
Take my praise, how - ev - er flawed, as an of - fering, wor - thy God.
Let me prove a stalk of wheat, when your har - vest is com - plete.

5 Re - in - force me, weak and fail - ing,
mak - ing sure your pre - cious word—
(Thieves and e - vil un - a - vail - ing)—
lives with - in my heart se - cured.
Shin - ing word, my star - ry guide,
plant - ed for me, deep in - side.

6 Let me hear when you com - mand me,
let me leap to do your will.
When I wan - der, rep - ri - mand me,
com - fort me when I lie ill.
In the hour of si - lent dread,
feed me with your heav - en - ly bread.

A native of Silesia, Benjamin Schmolck was ordained a Lutheran pastor. Although he was one of only three clergy serving thirty-six villages, he wrote more than 1,000 hymns. Joachim Neander, an

Tune: UNSER HERRSCHER 8.7.8.7.7.
Joachim Neander, 1680

***Invocation**

Creator God, you have loved us passionately into being. We come today seeking your presence. Enter our hearts so that we might look into your loving gaze and see ourselves reflected there, as you see us. Let our love for you reflect your perfect love as we gather as your Beloved Community. 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.

Baptism of Colette Evelyn Phillips

see insert

Conversation with the Children

Anthem

With a Voice of Singing

First Testament Lesson

Nehemiah 8:1-12

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

A Holy Day

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

***Hymn**

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

325

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981

1 Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir-it's sign;
 2 Child of love, our love's ex-pres-sion, love's cre-a-tion, loved in-deed!
 3 Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came.
 4 Child of God your lov-ing Par-ent, learn to know whose child you are.

With this wa-ter God has sealed you un-to love and grace di-vine.
 Fresh from God, re-fresh our spir-its, in-to joy and laugh-ter lead.
 Back to God we hum-bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
 Grow to laugh and sing and wor-ship, trust and love God more than all.

Ronald Cole-Turner, a teacher of theology, is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. He is an award-winning author on the interface of science and religion.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.
 Attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716), in Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

Words Copyright 1981 Ronald S. Cole-Turner.

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

Dear God, you call us to be doers of the Word, not hearers only. You call us to love the world with your passion and to let that love be expressed in justice, forgiveness, and peace. Forgive us when our hearts are constricted with fear. Forgive us when we do not let your transforming grace open us to the world you cherish. Restore us this holy day. Amen.

* Assurance

Holy One, in Christ you have shown us the way into your Beloved Community of mercy, love and peace, in which you are making all things new. We come to affirm our covenant and sacred promise to be in loving relationship with you and with all creation. Thank you for giving us life. Open us, body, mind and spirit to your truth. Fill us with your grace so we can fall in love with

your world and offer each other forgiveness, reconciliation, 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

Morning Has Broken

***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**

Our hearts overflow with thanksgiving on this holy day. You have called us to restoration and given us your work to do. As you have freed us from sin and despair, may we become agents of healing to others. Bless this offering of ourselves. Bless this giving of our resources. We pray, Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

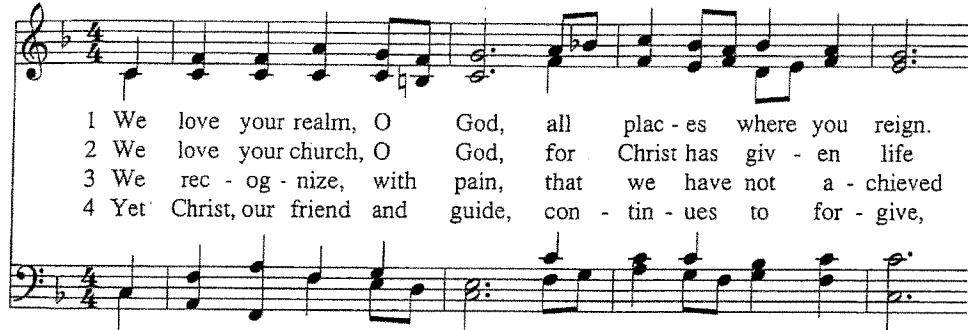
We Love Your Realm, O God

We Love Your Realm, O God

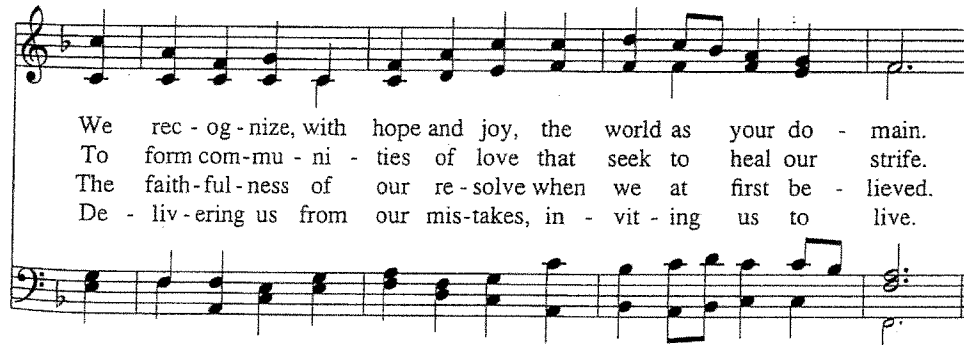
312

Timothy Dwight, 1801
Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992

Ps. 26:8



1 We love your realm, O God, all plac - es where you reign.
2 We love your church, O God, for Christ has giv - en life
3 We rec - og - nize, with pain, that we have not a - chieved
4 Yet Christ, our friend and guide, con - tin - ues to for - give,



We rec - og - nize, with hope and joy, the world as your do - main.
To form com - mu - ni - ties of love that seek to heal our strife.
The faith - ful - ness of our re - solve when we at first be - lieved.
De - liv - ering us from our mis - takes, in - vit - ing us to live.

5 Be - yond our bro - ken - ness,
we seek to know your ways
Of deep com - mu - nion, sol - emn vows,
and hymns of love and praise.

6 We know your truth will last.
We trust your reign is sure.
E - quip us for those dai - ly tasks
that help your world en - dure.

This poem by Lavon Bayler, a United Church of Christ minister, was inspired by and modeled after the oldest commonly used American hymn, "I Love Thy Kingdom" by Timothy Dwight.

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.
Williams' New Universal Psalmist, 1770

*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

Richmond

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.

Baptism of Colette Evelyn Phillips

Statement about Baptism

Questions to the Family

Congregational Assent

We who witness and celebrate this sacrament of baptism, on behalf of the whole Church, promise love, support, and care to Colette as she lives and grows on her faith journey.

The Act of Baptism

The Prayer for the Baptized

We give you thanks, O Holy One, Mother and Father of us all, Colette and for your love of her acknowledged here today in water and spirit. Embrace us all as your daughters and sons. Give to Colette strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life, through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

Announcements
August 29, 2021

Prayers: for the *Jim Harmon family*, on the death of Jim's father, *Don. Leo Yankton*, who crossed over to the Spirit World on Thursday.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Mark Jefferson, Ben Little, Layla Yarbrough, Beckett Oran, Cathy Roller, Mary Guin Knoll, Shirley West, Margo Prentiss, and Michael Pack.*

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

Baptism: During worship we will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for *Colette Evelyn Phillips*, child of *Desi Fortina Phillips & Mark Phillips.*

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

Coffee Hour: will be held on the Patio following worship.

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 are available in the Parlor.

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.



Activities for the Coming Week, August 30 – September 4

*Lectionary Readings: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; Isaiah 35:4-7a;
Psalm 146; James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37..*

Monday: Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study.

Wednesday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir, 7 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, September 5

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

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**.*