



# First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## SUMMER THEME: RESTORE

September 12, 2021

Confirmation Sunday

**Prelude**

Beautiful Savior

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Katie Miller

**\*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**

Bowen Steffen, liturgist

We are on a spiritual journey.

**We seek meaning in life. We want to know God.**

This is a spiritual family, helping one another on the journey.

**We travel together with open hearts, rich traditions, and curious minds.**

Let us worship God,

**That together we might grow in faith and love.**

**\*Processional Hymn**

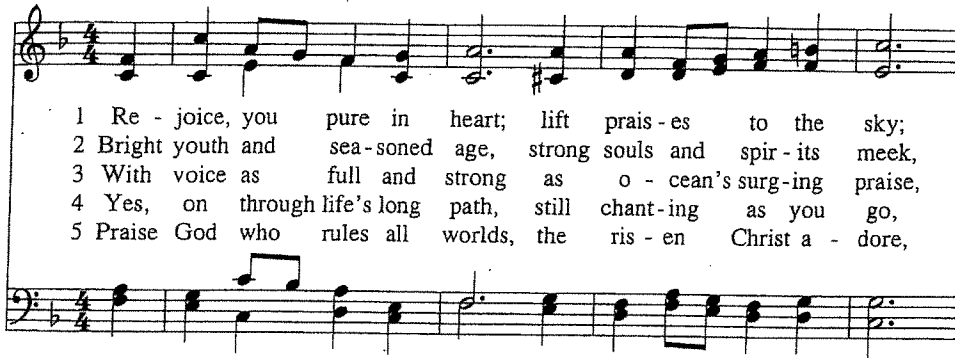
Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

# Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

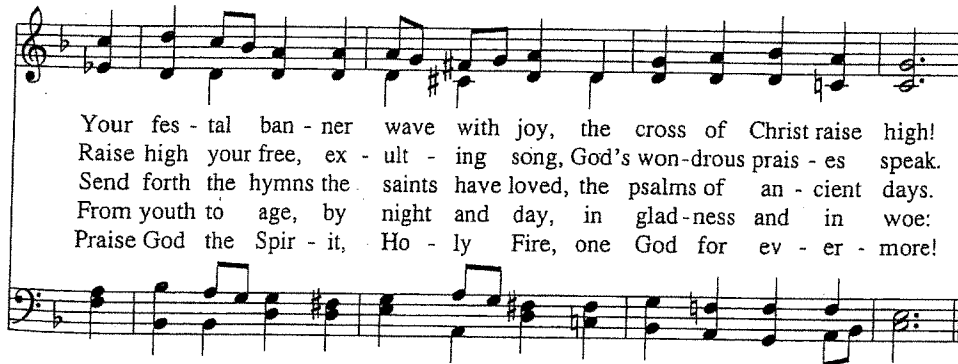
55

Edward H. Plumptre, 1865; alt.

Ps. 20:5; Phil. 4:4

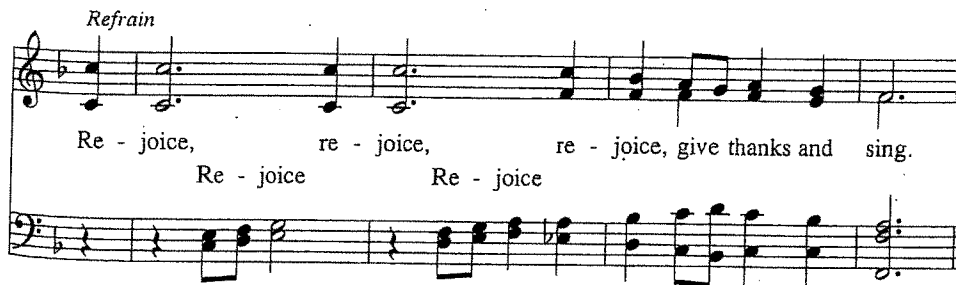


1 Re - joice, you pure in heart; lift prais - es to the sky;  
2 Bright youth and sea - soned age, strong souls and spir - its meek,  
3 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,  
4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as you go,  
5 Praise God who rules all worlds, the ris - en Christ a - dore,



Your fes - tal ban - ner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!  
Raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.  
Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an - cient days.  
From youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:  
Praise God the Spir - it, Ho - ly Fire, one God for ev - er - more!

*Refrain*



Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks and sing.  
Re - joice Re - joice

*This hymn, inspired by Philippians 4:4, was written for the Choral Festival held at Peterborough Cathedral in England. The author was an Anglican priest and a professor of theology*

Tune: MARION S.M. with refrain  
Arthur H. Messiter, 1883  
For an alternate setting, see 71

## **\*Invocation**

Gracious God, you are the One in whom we live and move and have our being. Draw near to us all as we seek to grow in faith. Increase in us the desire to follow you, the courage to question, and the willingness to learn. We ask through Christ our Savior. 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**

Rev. Katie Miller and confirmands

## **Anthem**

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

## **Gospel Lesson**

Mark 4:26-32

Sophia Rudd

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.

## **Testimony**

Celia Horobik

## **Testimony**

Joannis Obner

## **Receiving the Confirmation Class of 2021**

*see insert*

## **\*Hymn**

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

11:11:198  
6-23-96  
1-96

# I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry

*John Ylvisaker, 1985; alt*

*Unison*

D7 G D G D G D

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be  
 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was  
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too  
 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

G D G D7 G D

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you  
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the  
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you  
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

G D G C D7 G

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.  
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.  
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.  
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

G/B C G

I was there when you were but a child, with a  
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you  
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

Am D G G/B C

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you  
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your  
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

G A7 D *to beginning*

wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.  
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.  
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

## \*Prayer of Confession

Forgive us when we are not authentic in our faith, when we fail to welcome others warmly, when we overlook the challenging insights of others, and when we lack vitality and vision.

## \* Assurance

The loving God stands ready to forgive us and open us to new possibilities. Let us open the doors wide to invite people in, to invite the light in, so that together we might grow and keep growing.

## 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**

**Adventurous God, may these tithes and offerings become investments in a new and better world. Today we extend ourselves, forming lasting connections, so that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

## **\*Recessional Hymn**

**We Are Marching in the Light of God**

# Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'

(We Are Marching in the Light of God)

Ps. 89:15

South African freedom song; transl. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

G D7 G C

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos', si - ya -  
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are

1 D 3 G 2 D

hamb' e - ku - kha-nyen' kwen-khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -  
 march-ing in the light of God. We are march-ing in the

3 G G7 C

nyen' kwen - khos', Si - ya - ham - ba,  
 kha - nyen' kwen-khos', ham - ba, si - ya -  
 light of God. We are march-ing,  
 the light of God. march-ing, we are

G C D 3 G

ham - ba, Oo, si - ya - hamb' e - ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.  
 ham - ba, ham - ba,  
 march-ing, Oo, march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of God.

*Last time, end*

This South African song and fourteen others were first recorded and published in 1980 by the Church of Sweden Mission and the singing group "Fjedur" after a visit they made to South Africa. The subsequent 1984 collection Freedom Is Coming brought the songs to a worldwide audience.

Tune: SIYAHAMBA Irr.  
 South African song

## **\*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**

Fantasia in D minor

*Telemann*

#### **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.



# Receiving the Confirmation Class of 2021

**Introduction of the Class  
and Statement about Confirmation**

Natalie Lewis

**Questions to the Confirmands**

**Statement of Faith**

Black Hymnal, Page 885

**Prayers of the Congregation**

Let us pray in silence.

Let us pray together.

**Almighty God, who in baptism received these your  
servants into the church, forgave their sins, and  
promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of  
your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others,**

**joy in serving you,**

**peace in disagreement,**

**patience in suffering,**

**kindness toward all people,**

**goodness in evil times,**

**faithfulness in temptation,**

**gentleness in the face of opposition,**

**self-control in all things.**

**Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

**Act of Confirmation**

**Prayer of Confirmation**

## **Welcome**

Let us, the members of First Central Congregational United Church of Christ, express our welcome and our commitment to our sisters and brothers: *Celia Horobik, Sophia Rudd, Bowen Steffen, and Joannis Obner.*

**We welcome you with joy into the covenant relationship of this congregation. We promise you our friendship and support as we share in the work and hopes of the church of Jesus the Christ. By the power of God's presence, may we give witness to God's love and justice in the world. We are grateful that you have chosen to walk with us on your faith journey. May you find strength for life's journey, courage in the time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life through Jesus the Christ who makes us one. Amen.**

## **Sharing the Covenant**

**We are thankful for life, for Jesus Our Lord, for the courage and vision of our church founders. In gratitude, we covenant with God and with one another, seeking as a church and as individuals to be faithful to God's will. We pray for hearts that open, minds that understand, and lives that serve.**

**Announcements**  
**September 12, 2021**

**Prayers:** for the family of *Margaret Frum*, who died this week.

**Happy Birthday this week:** to *Scott Sumpter, Zach Zaiss, Andy Acker, Curt Cannon, Sam Rath, Saul Gonzalez, June Little, and Lucy Schneider.*

**Chancel flowers and decorations:** sponsored this month by *Terry & Pam Beranek.*

**Confirmation Sunday:** Our long-delayed class of 2020 (now 2021) confirmands leads us in worship today. Congratulations to *Celia Horobik, Joannis Obner, Sophia Rudd and Bowen Steffen.*

**FirstKids:** will not be held today.

**Fair Trade Coffee:** sponsors this month *Steve Jackson & Rick Richards; Bev Fleckten.*

**Homecoming:** on the patio after worship. Join us for lunch! Covid safety protocol will be followed.

**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.

**Sunday Night at the Movies!:** watch *Return to Me*, (PG) ,a fun and meaningful movie full of unexpected reversals in the imitation of the Gospel of Mark. Third Floor Parlor, 6-8 p.m.

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



## Activities for the Coming Week, September 13 – September 18

*Lectionary Readings: Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22;  
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37.*

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

**Tuesday:** Council, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Family Night, dinner at 5:30, activities at 6 p.m.  
Sanctuary Choir, 7 p.m.

**Thursday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Congregational Care, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
CEOs, 6 p.m., Anthony's, 72<sup>nd</sup> and F. Please RSVP to **Bob Vassell** by  
September 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

## Sunday, September 19

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

**New Members:** will be welcomed during worship. If you would like to join the congregation at this time, please contact **Scott Jones** or **Sara Sharpe**.

*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**.*