



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FALL THEME: BRAVE SPACE

October 3, 2021

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

“Ordinal”

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

Pam Beranek, liturgist

We were created in relationship and for relationship.

We are created for community.

God knew it was not right for us to be alone.

Through Jesus Christ, God entered into human relationship with us.

We rejoice in our unity with all humanity.

We are created for community.

***Processional Hymn**

This is My Song

CITIZENSHIP

591

This Is My Song

Ps. 82:8

Lloyd Stone, 1934

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions, a song of
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean, and sun - light

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the
 beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my
 sun - light, too, and clo - ver, and skies are ev - ery -

dreams, my ho - ly shrine; But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
 where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat - ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 na - tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

***Invocation**

Lord Jesus Christ, who reached across the ethnic boundaries of Samaritan, Roman and Jew, who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives, help us to break down the barriers in our community, enable us to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves and our world. 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

Anthem

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Epistle Lesson

I Corinthians 11:17-34

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

Come Together

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

***Hymn**

As We Gather at Your Table

As We Gather at Your Table

Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

In this hymn, commissioned by an Episcopal parish in Virginia for the celebration of its tricentennial, Carl P. Daw, Jr., utilized a

Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.I
 The Sacred Harp, 184

***Prayer of Confession**

God-made-flesh, we often think we can go it alone, that we try to do it all. We neglect the gifts you have given us and the relationships you created us for. Jesus Christ, you who lived in a human body, call us to community. Remind us that in you we are one. Awake in us a respect for one another, and celebrate with us the diversity within that unity. May it be so now and forever. Amen.

*** Assurance**

We are all divine creations. It is not right for us to be alone. We are forgiven and called back into relationship with God and with one another.

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

Evan

***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**

God of all creation, breathe your life-giving breath upon these gifts that they might be a blessing to all flesh. In communion with one another, let us share what we have received, knowing that we are one flesh with all humanity. Amen.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

You reveal to us the glories of your presence. You are a God of love, who speaks against oppression and injustice. You are the Creator God, who weaves the beauty of diversity into something fresh and new. You call us to follow you out of the familiar and comfortable, and to live by faith—calling upon your holy name and trusting in the power of your grace. Leaving all that was familiar in heaven, Jesus was born into the people and culture of Israel. Jesus was taught the language and the traditions of his family. Jesus realized that you, O God, love the world so much that you wanted everyone to believe. Because you show your mercy to every nation and people upon the earth; because you speak every language and delight in every culture; we join in your praise with all the earth singing:

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
GATHER

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

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

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

C D Em

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Recessional Hymn**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has

har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your

rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the
 peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the

Poet James Weldon Johnson was the first African-American to pass the bar examination in the state of Florida, and served as

Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE *arr.*
J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the
 way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our
 plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the

hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the
 path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the
 wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -

ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white
 neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our

on till vic - to - ry is won.
 gleam of our bright star is cast.
 God, true to our na - tive land.

***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

The Solid Rock

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
October 3, 2021

Prayers: for the family of *Rudy Kunkle*, who died last week; the *Beernink* family, on the death of *Ron's* father; *Trudy & Marissa Knapp-Rhodes*, on the death of their dog, *Duncan*; *Lauren Hole Lang*, on the death of her mother in law.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Terry Diel, Brad Milton, Paul Nelson, Tara Obner, Janet Bonet, Susan Fortina, John Austin, Stephanie Gonzalez, and Sue Epperson.*

Chancel flowers and decorations: sponsored this month by *Janet Kuehl, Deb Welk.*

Food Pantry: Donations will be accepted at church. Checks may be given to First Central with "pantry" in the memo line. Frozen meats are now being accepted (and are needed).

FirstKids: will not be held today.

Fair Trade Coffee: sponsors this month *Neha Kumari, Deb Welk, Nikki Zimmerman.*

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.



Activities for the Coming Week, October 4 – October 9

*Lectionary Readings: Job 23:1-9; Ps. 22:1-15; Amos 5:6,7, 10-15; Ps. 90:12-17;
Heb. 4:12-16.*

Monday: Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study.
Eves, 7 p.m., Oktoberfest at church.

Tuesday: Matching Members to Ministries, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Family Night, brown bag dinner at 5:30, activities at 6 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir, 7 p.m.
Vespers, 8 p.m.

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

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

Saturday: Hike in Neale Woods, 9:30 a.m. All are invited!
Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, October 10

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

Bible Study: 9:15 a.m., third floor parlor.

FirstKids: Fireside Room following the Conversation with the Children. Masks required.

Movie Night: 5:30 p.m. "Bed Knobs and Broomsticks," Courtyard.

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