



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WORSHIP THEME: EVANGELISM

October 24, 2021

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Idyll

Bouma

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

Marilyn Hammond, liturgist

God's ways are wonderful beyond our understanding.

We need the knowledge and energy God provides.

When our strength is spent, our vision clouded, and our hope is gone,

God reaches out and is present with us.

Open our eyes to your wonders, as if for the first time.

Open our ears to hear you calling, that we might become instruments of peace.

***Processional Hymn**

Speak, O God

Speak, O God.

Stephen Bourne

♩ = 138

Piano

1. "Speak, O God, your ser - vant listens!" We, like Sam - u - el of
 2. Speak to us, as to E - li - jah, still - ing with your si - lent
 3. Show us how to sing with Miriam, Greet - ing with a grate - ful
 4. Meet us where we try to bu - ry emp - ti - ness des - pair or
 5. If, im - pelled like Saul, we tra - vel fired by love of truth and

old, child - like, ask for dreams and visions, hopes to nur - ture
 voice gods that charm, se - duce or cla - mor - rest - less need and
 dance, ev - ery large or lit - tle freedom, new beg - in - ning
 shame. Speak as once you spoke to Ma - ry, Ris - en Christ and
 right, faith - ful but with faith too narrow, halt us and sus -

and up - hold, hearts that o - pen in com - pas - sion,
 sense - less choice, fear that needs an e - vil Oth - er,
 sec - ond chance, life re - leased from do - min - a - tion,
 call our name. Make us by your love's ar - trac - tion,
 pend our sight. Tune our words, our ways, our wel - come

minds that seek to un - der - stand, lives res - ist - ing fate and
 fer - vor, sniff - ing blood and gore, force un - leash - ing pride and
 fear, cap - ti - vi - ty and scorn - fore - tastes of a new cre -
 free - ly one with - out ta - boos, cat - a - lysts of lov - ing
 to your all - in - clu - sive will, so that we can say for

tash - ion. ne - ver false or sec - ond - hand.
 an - ger. greed that smiles and whis - pers. "More!"
 a - tion. all at last re - deemed re - born.
 ac - tion. treas - ur - ing our var - ied views.
 cer - tain. "Tru - ly God is speak - ing still!"

Lyrics by Brian Wren. Commissioned for the 150th Anniversary of First Central Congregational UCC, Omaha, Nebraska. Copyright © 2005 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. First Central Congregational Church, UCC, Omaha has permission in perpetuity to use this hymn without fee in its worship and programs.

***Invocation**

Still-speaking God, we give thanks that you have gathered us into your church and graced us with your faithful presence. We ponder our history, ancient and still developing, and marvel at the many expressions of your church. Grant us the vision to be a part of this new moment in your church that will bring ever more joy and justice to the world. Continue to gather us, the diverse lot of us, into Jesus' vision and dream that your faithful people may be one in you. 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

Go Into the World

Gospel Lesson

Mark 10:1-9

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 Conversation About Good News

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones
Rev. Katie Miller

***Hymn**

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

WITNESS

531

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.

1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your
4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Daughter of the English hymnwriter William H. Havergal, Frances Ridley Havergal was a gifted poet and student of several languages, including Hebrew and Greek. She also composed several hymn tunes. Canonbury was adapted from one of Robert Schumann's piano pieces.

Tune: CANONBURY L.M.
Arr. from Robert Schumann, 1872

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

Have mercy on us, loving God. When we want to be a church open to your transforming love, yet cling to comfortable ways. When we want to honor your still speaking voice, but are fearful of insights which challenge old assumptions. When we want to live into Jesus' dream of oneness, but fail to listen to voices of difference. Forgive us these sins, and have mercy upon us. Amen.

*** Assurance**

The Spirit fills us with glory and power that we might have the courage to follow in the way of Jesus. May God's light shine through us so that the world moves closer to God's dream of justice and peace.

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

Lux

Bouma

***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 ancestors in faith and church-building show us the way to share the gifts you have given to us. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them with heartfelt gratitude, commitment, and praise. Transform our lives, O God, and let these gifts change the world into which we send them. Take them and multiply them to be a blessing of justice and peace in the world you love. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

God Our Author and Creator

God Our Author and Creator

530

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1985

Gen. 1:1-2:3; Acts 17:22-31; Rom. 12:2; John 3:16-17

Unison

1 God our Au - thor and Cre - a - tor, in whose life we find our own,
 2 Like those first a - pos-tles, Sav-ior, give us strength to love and serve:
 3 Keep us faith-ful, Ho-ly Spir-it, help us bear the mes-sage true,

make our dai - ly wit - ness great-er, by our lives make your love known.
 when our faint-ing spir - its wa-ver, fire our hearts and steel our nerve.
 that at last all lands may hear it: "God is love; Christ died for you."

Help us show how love em-brac-es those whom fear and greed down-trod;
 Teach us wis - dom and com-pas-sion: bid our rest - less thoughts be still;
 Join our lives in might-y cho-rus till we come from ev - ery place,

in all yearn-ing hearts and fac - es let us see a child of God.
 by your guid-ance help us fash-ion lives con-formed un - to your will.
 with all those who went be - fore us, to the full - ness of God's grace.

In 1985 a hymn competition was held to commemorate the

Tune: JEFFERSON 8.7.8.7.D.

***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

Carillon Sortie

Saint Saens

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 24, 2021

Prayers: *Nancy Dugan*, now at home; *Kathy Hoyt*, on the death of her faithful furry friend, *Tug*; *John Austin*, recovering from hip replacement.

Joys: *Jeremy & Kristin Cassiday*, on the birth of *Margaret Ann* – proud grandfather is *Bud Cassiday*!

Happy Birthday this week: to *Finnegan Irish*.

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

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

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 25 – October 30

*Lectionary Readings: Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Psalm 119:1-8;
Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34.*

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

Wednesday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Trunk-or-Treat, 5:30 p.m., back parking lot.
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: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, October 31

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.

Semi-Annual Meeting: in the Sanctuary following worship.

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