



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 31, 2021

Reformation Day

Prelude

Toccata and Fugue in D-minor
Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.

J.S. Bach

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

Marian Fey, liturgist

O sing to God a new song!

Sing to God, all of us throughout this earth.

Bless the name of God.

Exclaim God's salvation from morning until night.

Declare God's glory and marvelous works.

For great is God, and with excitement, we join in praise.

***Processional Hymn**

Be Now My Vision

Black Hymnal, No. 451

SLANE

451

10-15-95
8-4-96

Be Now My Vision

Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905
Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.

Unison

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor

Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.
Traditional Irish melody

***Invocation**

God of all time and spaces, we know that through your magnificent creative Spirit our world and our lives come into being. And yet, you are not completely finished with creation. You continue to speak. As you nudge us to newness, grant us renewal as we observe creation with refreshed souls. Give us the courage to change, help us to be and do more, that your mission might be accomplished. Amen.

Gloria

Black Hymnal, No. 759

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

Jenny Pfeifer

Anthem

From the Rising of the Sun

Gospel Lesson

Mark 12:28-34

Pew Bible, Page 46

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

Reflections

Rev. Katie Miller, Rev. Dr. Scott Jones, Justin Lowndes

***Hymn**

What Gift Can We Bring?

Black Hymnal, No. 370

MARSHALL

What Gift Can We Bring?

370

Jane Marshall, 1980

1 Sam. 9:7; 1 Cor. 3:8-9; 1 John 4:13-16

Unison

1 What gift can we bring, what pres - ent, what to - ken?
2 Give thanks for the past, for those who had vi - sion,
3 Give thanks for to - mor - row, full of sur - pris - es,
4 This gift we now bring, this pres - ent, this to - ken,

What words can con - vey it, the joy of this day?
who plant - ed and wa - tered so dreams could come true.
for know - ing what - ev - er to - mor - row may bring,
these words can con - vey it, the joy of this day!

When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re - joic - ing,
Give thanks for the now, for stud - y, for wor - ship,
The Word is our prom - ise al - ways, for - ev - er;
When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re - joic - ing,

what song can we of - fer in hon - or and praise?
for mis - sion that bids us turn prayer in - to deed.
we rest in God's keep - ing and live in God's love.
this song we now of - fer in hon - or and praise!

*Confession

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

Forgive us when we limit you, God and when we place you and your ideas into boxes. Just as the world continues to revolve and evolve, the church is called to move in new directions. Open our souls to the expansiveness of faith. May we incorporate the new winds and bold ideas your Holy Spirit inspires. Amen.

* Assurance

Know that our God who began a good work in us is able to complete it. As we open ourselves to the Spirit of God, may we see more fully the wonder of God already at work in us.

Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

Grant Switzer & Jim Harmon

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

Air

Handel

*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

Through the gifts that we collect in these plates, the pledges we make for the future, and the offerings that we give of our time and our talents, we seek to grow, Holy God. Give us vision and the determination to do the work. Entice us not only to build but to reform your church, that all might experience justice, joy, and peace. Amen.

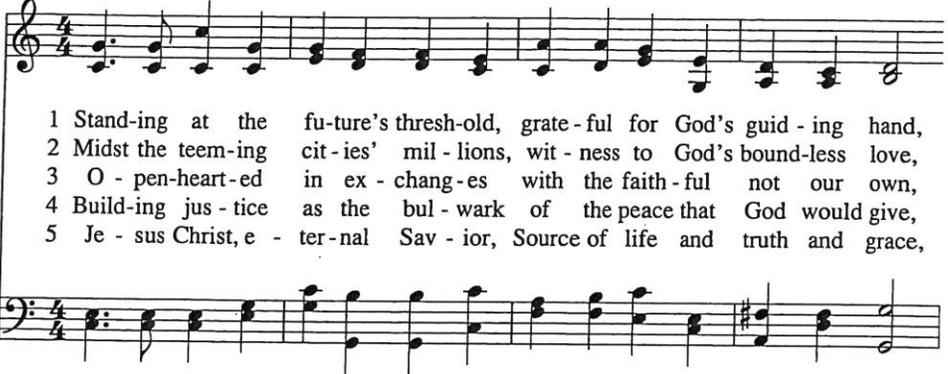
*Recessional Hymn

Standing at the Future's Threshold *Black Hymnal*, No.538

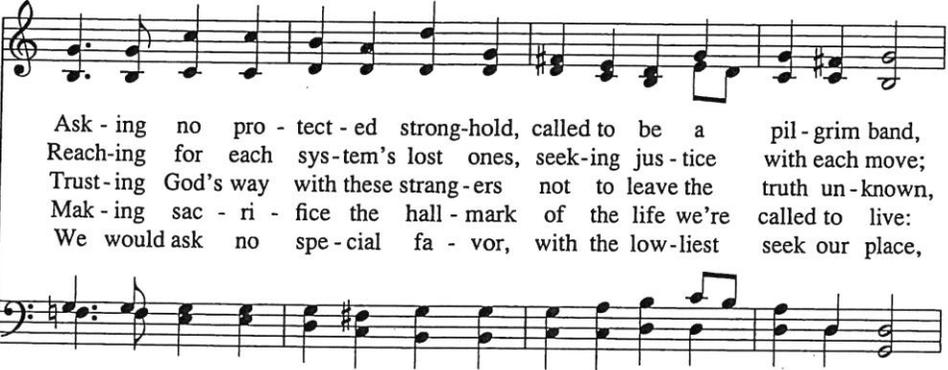
GREGORY

Matt. 25:31-40

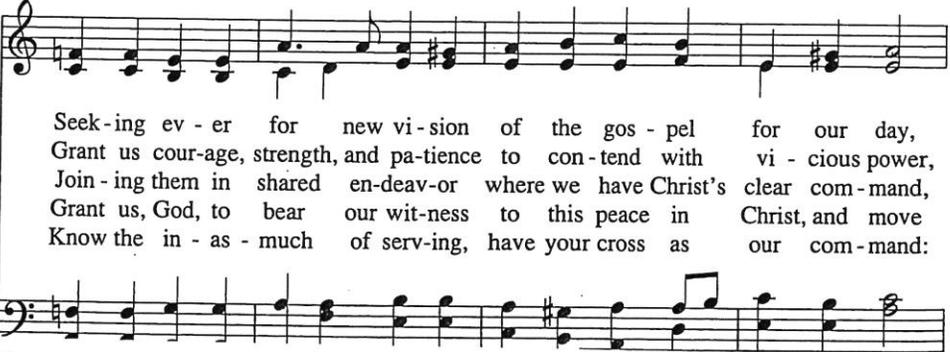
Paul R. Gregory, 1985; rev. 1994



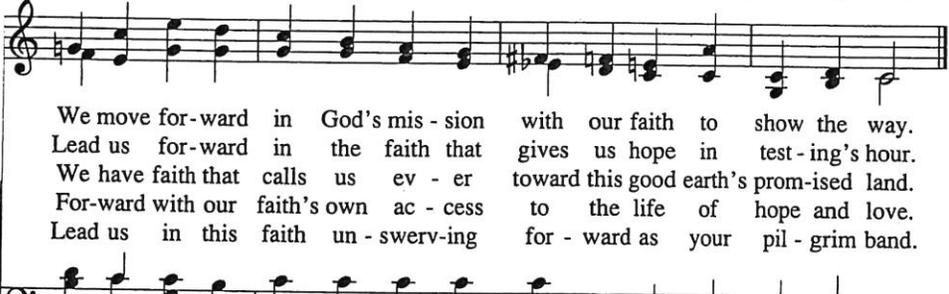
1 Stand-ing at the fu-ture's thresh-old, grate-ful for God's guid-ing hand,
 2 Midst the teem-ing cit-ies' mil-lions, wit-ness to God's bound-less love,
 3 O - pen-heart-ed in ex - chang-es with the faith-ful not our own,
 4 Build-ing jus-tice as the bul-wark of the peace that God would give,
 5 Je - sus Christ, e - ter-nal Sav - ior, Source of life and truth and grace,



Ask - ing no pro - tect - ed strong-hold, called to be a pil - grim band,
 Reach-ing for each sys-tem's lost ones, seek-ing jus-tice with each move;
 Trust-ing God's way with these strang-ers not to leave the truth un-known,
 Mak-ing sac - ri - fice the hall - mark of the life we're called to live:
 We would ask no spe-cial fa - vor, with the low-liest seek our place,



Seek-ing ev - er for new vi-sion of the gos - pel for our day,
 Grant us cour-age, strength, and pa-tience to con-tend with vi - cious power,
 Join - ing them in shared en-deav-or where we have Christ's clear com-mand,
 Grant us, God, to bear our wit-ness to this peace in Christ, and move
 Know the in - as - much of serv-ing, have your cross as our com-mand:



We move for-ward in God's mis - sion with our faith to show the way.
 Lead us for-ward in the faith that gives us hope in test-ing's hour.
 We have faith that calls us ev - er toward this good earth's prom-ised land.
 For-ward with our faith's own ac - cess to the life of hope and love.
 Lead us in this faith un - swerv-ing for - ward as your pil - grim band.

*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.

You are invited to stay for our Semi-Annual Meeting

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 31, 2021

Joys: *Linda Meigs*, inducted into Westside High School Alumni Hall of Fame

Happy Birthday this week: to *Pam Beranek, Joe Wheeler, Jim Wozny, Rick Brenneman, Val Himes, Henry Henkes, Nicole Le Clerc*, and *Tom Solberg*.

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*.

Semi-Annual Meeting: in the Sanctuary following worship.

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.



Activities for the Coming Week, October 31 – November 6

Lectionary Readings: Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127; 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44.

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

Wednesday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Family Night, 5:30 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: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, November 7

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS!

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

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

FirstKids: will not be held today so children may celebrate communion with their families.

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).

The church calendar is also available at www.firstcentral.org

*Like us on **Facebook**. Follow us on **Twitter**. Watch us on **YouTube***