



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epiphany Theme: Arise, Shine!

January 9, 2022

First Sunday After Epiphany

Prelude

Ricercar On: "Der Tag der ist so Freudenreich"
Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.

Poglietti

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

Lyn Bouma

From the midst of our real lives with their very real problems,

We come to seek courage and strength in the presence of God and support we give one another.

As persons who love imperfectly and are loved imperfectly,

We come to be renewed by the perfect love of God, proclaimed in this community of love.

As persons who never fully live up to our high calling in Jesus Christ,

We come to be encouraged to do our best for one more week.

Let us worship with hearts open to the love of God and hands outstretched to one another.

We bring our whole selves, willing to accept the cost and joy of being Christ's disciples.

*Processional Hymn

In a Lowly Manger Born

Black Hymnal, No. 162

MABUNE

EPIPHANY

162

In a Lowly Manger Born

Matt. 8:20; John 19:5; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 5:1-11

Kō Yūki, 1923
Transl. Vern Rossman; alt.

1 In a low-ly man-ger born, hum-ble life be-gun in scorn.
2 Vis-it-ing each out-cast soul, bring-ing peace to make them whole,
3 Came to earth for you and me, gave up life up-on the tree;

In a work-shop Je-sus grew, work-er's strug-gles knew.
Giv-ing self-less-ly in love, God's own love to prove.
There we saw God's love re-vealed, through that pain were healed.

Knew the suf-fering of the weak, knew the long-ing of the meek,
Sin-ners glad-ly heard Christ call, righ-teous ones did hum-ble fall.
Lives a-gain in glo-ry bright, lives a-gain in power and might,

Knew the poor and suf-fering ones; this is God, the Hu-man One!
And in Christ new life be-gun, wor-shipped God, the Hu-man One!
Our sal-va-tion now has come, gift of God, the Hu-man One!

In 1971 Kō Yūki was named pastor emeritus of a Tokyo church he had served for fifty years. He is known as a Christian educator, Pascal scholar, and prolific hymnwriter. Translator Vern Rossman was an American missionary to Japan.

Tune: MABUNE 7.7.7.D.
Seigi Abe, 1930

***Invocation**

Come, O Creator, O Immensity of Love, O Eternity of Mercy. Come, and be with us and in us and beside us and over us. Be as hands upon us and fashion us for shining. Be as warmth within us and ignite our caring. Be as strength beside us and shape our lives for healing. May your Word come true in our flesh, through Jesus Christ. 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

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:41-51, pew Bible pages 55-56

Psalter

Psalm 36:5-10

HOLY ONE, throughout the very heavens is your faithful love,
your faithfulness beyond the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the eternal mountains,

your judgments are like the mighty deep;

you save humankind and animalkind alike, FAITHFUL ONE.

How precious is your faithful love, O God!

All the woman-born take shelter in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house,

and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life;

in your light we see light.

Extend your faithful love to those who know you,

and your justice to the upright of heart!

Anthem

Song of Hope

Scripture Lessons Isaiah 52:1-10; I Corinthians 1:26-31, pew Bible pages 642, 156

Sermon

Your Strength

Dr. Rev. Scott Jones

***Hymn**

The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young

Black Hymnal, No. 468

The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young

468

R. Deane Postlethwaite, 1980

Deut. 32:11-12a; Exod. 19:4

1 The care the ea - gle gives her young, safe in her
 2 As when the time to ven - ture comes, she stirs them
 3 And if we flut - ter help - less - ly, as fledg - ling

loft - y nest, Is like the ten - der
 out - to flight, So we are pressed to
 ea - gles fall, Be - neath us lift God's

love of God for us made man - i - fest.
 bold - ly try, to strive for dar - ing height.
 might - y wings to bear us, one and all.

This text was originally titled "For a Recognition of God's Feminine Attributes." The author explains: "I find a deep meaning and power in the image of a God who, like a mother eagle, pushes me from her nest, but who catches me, bears me up, when I fall."

Tune: CRIMOND C.M.
 Jesse Seymour Irvine, 1872
 Harm. T. C. L. Pritchard, 1929

***Confession**

Dr. Rev. Jim Harmon

We confess together that we have not always lived as those forgiven, set free, and united in Christ. We are aware, O God, that we are at times prisoners of fear and habit. Through the healing touch of Christ, set us free to live and to love, that we may be the people you have created us to be. Let us Arise and Shine! Amen.

***Assurance**

The good news is that Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again. Let us praise God with joy.

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

Magnificat

Kinderman

***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

For all we have inherited from your hand, for making us in your own image, for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ, we give you thanks, loving God. We pour out our gratitude and give our best, that this world may become a place where your light shines. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Black Hymnal, No. 25

ST. ANNE CM

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

25

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 90:1-2, 4-5

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,

Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev-er-roll-ing stream,
soon bears us all away;
We fly for-got-ten, as a dream
fades at the o-pen-ing day.

6 O God, our help in a-ges past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while trou-bles last,
and our e-ter-nal home!

Watts, minister of a Congregational church in London, wrote theological and philosophical works and hundreds of "hymns of human composure" (everyday language). He augmented the congregational singing of psalms with a new style of hymnody.

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.
William Croft, 1708

***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

Vom Himmel Hoch

Pachelbel

You are invited to remain for the playing of the postlude.

Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.

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

January 9, 2022

Prayers: We pray for **Mary Solberg** and family, on the death of **Randy Solberg**. We pray for **Deb Kirwan** and family on the death of her daughter-in-law, **Esther Bridges**.

Happy Birthday this week: **Elliott Mitchell, Valerie Garver, Kerrie Kleppin-Winn, Josephine Obner, Lulu Tiller, Mitch Fey, Leo Bock, and Meg Fey.**

Coffee Hour: Due to the unfortunate rise of COVID-19 cases in Douglas County, there will be no coffee hour following worship for the remainder of the month of January. We dearly hope to resume normal activities soon.

Chancel Flowers and Decorations: We are in need of chancel flower donors for the month of January. Consider stopping by the parlor after worship to sign up for this month or upcoming months!

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

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.



Activities for the Coming Week **January 9-15**

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, John 2:1-11

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

Tuesday: Council, 7 p.m., Parlor

Wednesday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir, 7 p.m.
Vespers, 8 p.m., Facebook Live

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. – 2 p.m.

Sunday, January 16

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

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