



# First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Epiphany Theme: Arise, Shine!

January 16, 2022

Second Sunday After Epiphany

### Prelude

In Paradisum

*Please respect those who wish to sit in silence.*

### 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

Cathy Roller

Gather together, for God is calling.

**We are here to listen.**

The voice of God is full of majesty.

**God calls us by name.**

God reaches out to strengthen us.

**God brings us through chaos to the place of peace.**

Give glory and honor to God.

**We worship together in wonder, awe, and joy.**

### \*Processional Hymn

Crashing Waters at Creation *Black Hymnal*, No. 326

STUTT GART

7-15-96  
9-22-97  
1/14/98  
**Crashing Waters at Creation**

326

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1991

Gen. 1:1-5; Exod. 14:21-22; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:13-14

- 1 Crash-ing wa-ters at cre-a-tion  
or-dered by the Spir-it's breath,  
First to wit-ness day's be-gin-ning  
from the bright-ness of night's death.
- 2 Part-ing wa-ter stood and trem-bled  
as the cap-tives passed on through,  
Wash-ing off the chains of bond-age—  
chan-nel to a life made new.
- 3 Cleans-ing wa-ter once at Jor-dan  
closed a-round the One fore-told,  
O-pened to re-veal the glo-ry  
ev-er new and ev-er old.
- 4 Liv-ing wa-ter, nev-er end-ing,  
quench the thirst and flood the soul.  
Well-spring, Source of life e-ter-nal,  
drench our dry-ness, make us whole.

Hymnwriter Sylvia Dunstan wrote this text to accompany a prayer for blessing the water in the United Church of Canada baptismal rites. She has credited the work of Miriam Therese Winter as her inspiration for some of the imagery in the last stanza.

Tune: STUTTGART 8.7.8.7.  
Attrib. to Christian F. Witt (1660-1716), in  
Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715

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## \*Invocation

**Touch us today, Holy God. Help us to recall the power of our baptism and reconfirm our commitment to Jesus Christ. Name us again as your people: precious, gifted, created to glorify you. Deliver us, vindicate us, save us from our enemies. Lead us into fullness of life and peace with ourselves and one another. 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

Matthew 3:1-6, 11-17, pew Bible pages 2-3

### Psalter

Psalm 18:2-11

The ROCK WHO GAVE US BIRTH is my rock,  
and my fortress, and my deliverer,  
**my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

I call upon the HOLY ONE, may she be praised,  
and from my enemies I shall be saved.

**The snares of death encompassed me;  
the rivers of wickedness assailed me.**

The snares of Sheol encircled me;  
the snares of death confronted me.

**In my distress I called upon SHE WHO HEARS;**

**to my God I cried for help.**

From her temple she heard my voice,  
and my cry came before her, to her ears.

**Then the earth shuddered and quaked;  
the foundations also of the mountains trembled  
and were shaken because of her anger.**

Smoke went up from her nostrils,  
and consuming fire from her mouth;  
burning coals blazed forth from her.

*(Continued on next page...)*

**She spread out the heavens, and descended;  
thick darkness was under her feet.**

She mounted up on a cherub, and flew;  
she soared upon the wings of the wind.

**She made darkness her veil around her,  
her canopy dark waters and thick clouds.**

**Anthem**

O Lord Our Governor

Marcello

**Scripture Lessons**

Isaiah 62:1-7; 2 Corinthians 6:2-10, pew Bible pages 651, 171

**Sermon**

Your Vindication

Dr. Rev. Scott Jones

**\*Hymn**

When Peace, Like a River

*Black Hymnal*, No. 438

VILLE DU HAVRE

STRUGGLE AND CONFLICT

438

When Peace, Like a River  
(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19-23; 2:13-14; 3 John 1:2

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.

1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when  
2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let  
3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my  
4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have  
this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my  
sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I  
clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the

Refrain

taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."  
help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul.

This hymn was written out of grief over the loss of the author's four daughters in the sinking of the SS Ville du Havre. After

Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE 11.8.11.9. with refrain  
Philip P. Bliss, 1876

## **\*Confession**

Dr. Rev. Jim Harmon

We confess sometimes we retreat to safe places where we hope to avoid challenges and uncertainty. When we shrink from risks, we miss much that enriches life. Free us, we pray, for daring service. Let your Spirit shine through us. Amen.

## **\*Assurance**

God has redeemed us, claimed us, and called us by name. We are precious in God's site. Surely God strengthens us in times of difficulty. God blesses us with a peace that is more powerful than any outward circumstances.

## **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**

Song of Peace

## **\*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.

## **Congregational Reaffirmation of Our Baptismal Covenant**

(see insert)

## **Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant**

Introduction

Profession of Faith

According to the grace given to you, will you remain faithful members of Christ's holy Church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world?

If so, say, "We will."

**We will.**

Let us join in professing the Christian faith.

**885**

**United Church of Christ Statement of Faith  
in the Form of a Doxology**

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,  
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,  
and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being,  
create persons in your own image,  
and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness  
and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will  
declared through prophets and apostles.  
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and  
risen Savior,  
you have come to us  
and shared our common lot,  
conquering sin and death  
and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,  
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,  
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,  
tongues, and races.

You call us into your church  
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,  
to be your servants in the service of others,  
to proclaim the gospel to all the world  
and resist the powers of evil,  
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,  
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you  
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,  
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,  
your presence in trial and rejoicing,  
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Let us join in professing our covenant with one another.

**Covenant (4-12-1981)**

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.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Eternal Creator:

When nothing existed but chaos,

you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.

After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,

you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan River to the land which you promised.

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.

He called disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

**Declare God's works to the nations, God's glory among all people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit,

and by this gift of water call to our remembrance the grace declared to us in our baptism.

For you have washed away our sin,

and you clothe us with righteousness throughout our lives,

that dying and rising with Christ

we may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, our Mother and Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.**

Remember your baptism and be thankful.

The Holy Spirit work within you, that having been born through water and the Spirit, you may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## Thanksgiving

Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of our covenant God.

**We give thanks for all that God has already given us. As members of the Body of Christ and in this congregation, we will faithfully participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service, continuing to grow as a Christian through prayer, study, reflection, and worship, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

**\*Recessional Hymn**      Now Is the Time Approaching      *Black Hymnal*, No. 609  
WEBB

## Now Is the Time Approaching

609

Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1859; alt.

Jer. 33:14-16; Isa. 11:6-9; 61:11

1 Now is the time ap - proach - ing, by proph - ets long fore - told,  
 2 Let all that now di - vides us re - move and pass a - way,  
 3 O long - ex - pect - ed dawn - ing, come with your cheer - ing ray!

when all shall dwell to - geth - er, se - cure and man - i - fold.  
 like mists of ear - ly morn - ing be - fore the blaze of day.  
 Yet shall the prom - ise beck - on and lead us not a - stray.

Let war be learned no long - er, let strife and tu - mult cease,  
 Let all that now u - nites us more sweet and last - ing prove,  
 O sweet an - tic - i - pa - tion! It cheers the watch - ers on

all earth a bless - ed gar - den that God shall tend in peace.  
 a clos - er bond of un - ion, in bless - ed lands of love.  
 to pray, and hope, and la - bor till Christ's new realm is come.

Jane Laurie Borthwick's text titled "Anticipation of Heaven" was published in her *Thoughts for Thoughtful Hours* (1859). George J. Webb, American organist and music publisher, originally wrote this music for a secular song, "The dawn, the look is coming."

Tune: WEBB 7.6.7.6.D.  
 George J. Webb, 1837

## **\*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**

Ratis Bon

### **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 16, 2022

**Happy Birthday this week:** *Leanne Gonzalez, Dave Hamer, Lou Lamberty, Parker Schwerdtfeger, Diane Dimon, Desiree Steffen, Robert Vassell, and John Pfeifer.*

**Coffee Hour:** Due to the rise of COVID-19 cases in Douglas County, there will be no coffee hour following worship for the remainder of the month of January.

**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:** 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 16-22**

*Lectionary Readings: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19, I Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21*

- Monday:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Church Offices Closed
- Wednesday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Sanctuary Choir, 7 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. – 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](http://www.firstcentral.org)  
Like us on **Facebook**. Follow us on **Twitter**. Watch us on **YouTube**.*