



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epiphany Theme: Arise, Shine!

January 23, 2022

Third Sunday After Epiphany

Prelude

Pavane

Patricia Miller & David Shipley

by Gabriel Fauré, arr. Uwe Korn

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

Villatoro Family

O God of Change and Stillness, of Wounds and Repair,
in you we find our sense of balance—a place to land and to breathe.

May we grow our attention towards that which gives life,
and cultivate connections of community and care.

May grace touch all that changes us,
and all that we hold unfold with peace.

May we gather in this space claiming healing as our birthright,
and bring with us the medicines of service and compassion.

Let us come together to transform ourselves and the world--
ever adapting, ever faithful, ever full of all that could be.

*Processional Hymn

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Black Hymnal, No. 553

BALM IN GILEAD

HEALING AND FORGIVENESS

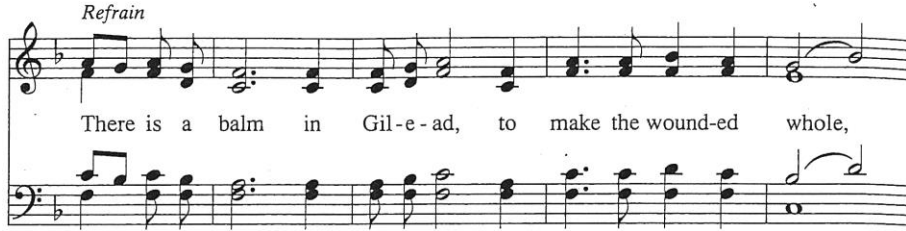
553

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Jer. 8:18-22; 46:11; Acts 10:34-43

African-American spiritual; alt.

Refrain

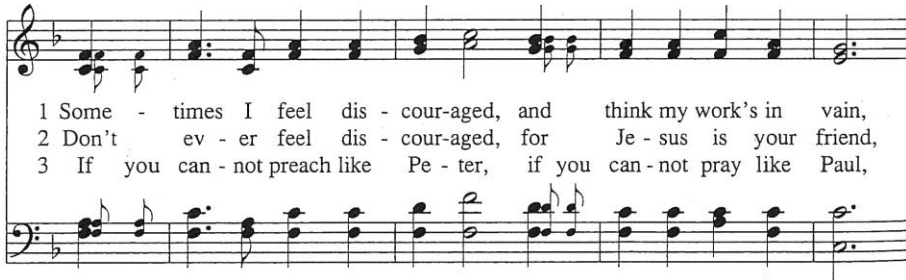


There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,



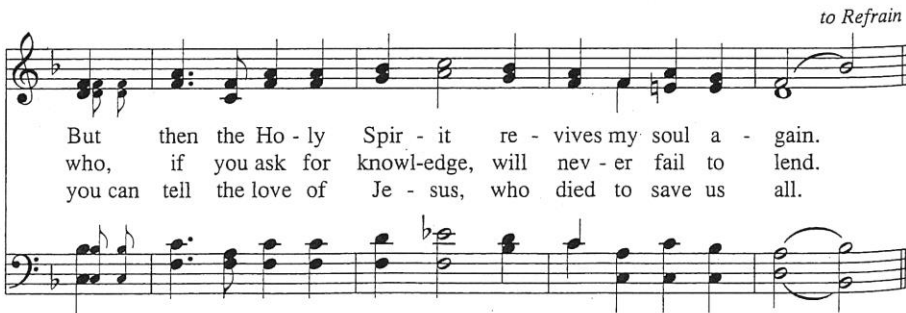
there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Last time, end



1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,
2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend,
3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

to Refrain



But then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev - er fail to lend.
you can tell the love of Je - sus, who died to save us all.

This is one of the most moving of the African-American spirituals because it illustrates the way in which the enslaved tried to encourage those who were feeling especially weighed down by the burden of their captivity.

Tune: BALM IN GILEAD Irr. with refrain
African-American spiritual

*Invocation

O God, who gives us strength when we feel weak, we gather to hear your Word, to sing your songs, and to give you praise. We know that you are always with us, and we are grateful. Help us to live our lives in ways that show you are near. Thank you for your presence and constant care for us—in worship, and in each day of our lives. 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

Epistle Lesson

I Timothy 4:1-6, 9-10, pew Bible pages 195-196

Psalter

Psalm 17:6-9, 13, 15

I call upon you, for you will answer me, God;
extend your ear to me, hear my words.
Make your wondrous faithful love known,
**Savior of those who seek refuge at your right hand,
from those who raise themselves up [against them].**
Keep me as the apple of the eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings,
**from the wicked who despoil me,
my mortal enemies who surround me.**
Rise up, HOLY PROTECTOR, confront them, overthrow them!
deliver my soul from the sword of wicked.
**As for me, in righteousness shall I behold your face;
I shall be satisfied when I wake, having seen your likeness.**

Scripture Lessons Zephaniah 3:14-20; Mark 1:29-31, pew Bible pages 826-827; 33

Sermon

Your Restoration

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

*Hymn

Immortal Love, Forever Full

Black Hymnal, No. 166

SERENITY

Immortal Love, Forever Full

166

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1867; alt.

Phil. 2:9-11; Rom. 10:6-7; Mark 5:25-29



- 1 Im - mor - tal Love, for - ev - er full, for - ev - er flow - ing free,
- 2 Our out - ward lips con - fess the Name all oth - er names a - bove;
- 3 We may not climb the heav - en - ly steep - s to bring the Sov - ereign down;
- 4 But warm, sweet, ten - der, ev - en yet this One our help will be;



- For - ev - er shared, for - ev - er whole, a nev - er - ebb - ing sea!
Love on - ly knows from where it came and com - pre - hends God's love.
In vain we search the low - est deeps for One no depths can drown.
For faith has still its Ol - i - vet, and love its Gal - i - lee.



- 5 The heal - ing of Christ's seam - less dress
still soothes our beds of pain;
We touch it in life's throng and press,
and we are whole a - gain.
- 6 Through Christ our ear - liest prayers
are said
with words we scarce can frame;
The last low whis - pers of our dead
still ech - o with Christ's name.

Though the American poet John Greenleaf Whittier did not write hymnody as such, a number of hymns have been drawn from his devotional poetry. This hymn was selected from The Tent on the Beach and Other Poems.

Tune: SERENITY C.M.
Arr. from William V. Wallace, 1856
Alternate tune: BEATITUDO

***Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

Loving God, we recall the times when your Word feels distant, and when we forget how much you love us. We let our egos take hold, and we treat others as threats to our sense of self. We forget your words of comfort, love, and care. We forget to look to your Word for guidance. We forget that you are our ultimate source of joy. Forgive us, O God. Amen.

***Assurance**

God gathers us together, renews our spirits, and restores our fortunes. Let us rejoice, for God has saved us.

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.

Neighbors in Need Reflection

George Himes

Offertory

Sicilienne

Patricia Miller & David Shipley

by Gabriel Fauré, arr. Timothy Brown

***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**

Your Holy Spirit ignites our imaginations and fills our lives with purpose. We commit ourselves anew with our gifts. Inspire us to invest fully in the work you set before us. The gifts you give us can only be fully realized when they are used. Let us rejoice in the mission you entrust to us. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy *Black Hymnal*, No. 23

WEBB

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

23

Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
and the heart of the E - ter-nal is most won-der - ful - ly kind.

There's no place where earth-ly sor-rows are more felt than in God's heaven;
If our love were but more faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's word;

there's no place where earth-ly fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment given.
and our lives would show thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of our God.

Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.
Dutch melody

***Recessional Hymn** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy *Black Hymnal, No. 23*
IN BABILONE

***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

Piano Concerto No. 2, 1st Movement
arr. Roger Brison

Patricia Miller & David Shipley

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 23, 2022

Happy Birthday this week: *Nikki Irish, Stephen Bouma, Trudy Knapp-Rhodes, Pat Sharp, Jeremy Cassiday, Laura Grams, Nicholas Vincent, Jim Barbour, and Nancy Schalles.*

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.

Fair Trade Coffee: We are in need of Fair Trade coffee donors for the month of February as well as future months in 2022. Consider stopping by the parlor to sign up!

Chancel Flowers and Decorations: Chancel flowers last week were donated by Marilyn Hammond in memory of her mother on the occasion of what would have been her 92nd birthday. Flowers and decorations are also sponsored this month by Lamar and Vickie Jones.

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 23-30**

Lectionary Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; I Corinthian 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

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

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

Sunday, January 30

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

Annual Meeting: 11:30 a.m. following worship on Zoom or in person. Annual Reports are available in the parlor, church office, and on our website under Member Resources.

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