



# First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Epiphany Theme: Arise, Shine!

January 30, 2022

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

### Prelude

Great is Thy Faithfulness  
*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

James & Lucas Askew

Our hearts are filled with thanks, O God.  
**We bring before you our songs of praise.**  
God's purposes endure and will be fulfilled.  
**The steadfast love of God surrounds us here.**  
We have come to see and hear and understand.  
**Our lives can be channels for God's grace.**

### \*Processional Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Black Hymnal*, No. 43

BEECHER

# Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mat. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.

1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,  
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;  
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;  
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;  
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;  
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.  
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;

Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.  
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;  
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,  
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,

Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.  
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.  
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

Word alterations Copyright 1992 The Pilgrim Press.

**\*Invocation**

Holy One, you are ready to meet us wherever we are in our lives, offering vision, interruption, and hope where we may least expect it. Surprise us here at worship today with some grace unexpected that will change something in us and send us into the world inspired and impassioned to do your work. In Jesus' name we pray, 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**

John 2:1-12, pew Bible page 86

**Psalter**

Psalm 45:6-10, 12-15

Your God-given throne is everlasting;  
a scepter of integrity is your royal scepter.  
You love righteousness and hate wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness more than your companions.  
Myrrh and aloes and cassia scent all your garments;  
from ivory palaces stringed instruments bring you joy.  
Royal daughters are your treasures;  
the consort stands at your right hand in gold of Ophir.  
Hear daughter, consider and incline your ear;  
forget your people and the house of your mother and father.  
Daughter of Tyre, with gifts shall they seek your favor,  
the wealthiest of the people.  
With all kinds of wealth is the princess ensconced;  
her garments woven with gold.  
In embroidery is she led to the king;  
behind her the maidens, her companions, follow.  
They are brought with joy and gladness  
into the palace of the king.

**Anthem**

Love One Another

Bouma

**Scripture Lessons**

Song of Songs 4:9-15; I Corinthians 9:1-10  
pew Bible page 589; 160-161

**Sermon**

Your Love

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

**\*Hymn**

When Love Is Found

*Black Hymnal, No. 362*

O WALY WALY

MARRIAGE

362

When Love Is Found

Matt. 19:6; Mark 10:8

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1992

Unison

1 When love is found and hope comes home, sing and be  
 2 When love has flowered in trust and care, build both each  
 3 When love is tried as loved-ones change, hold still to  
 4 When love is torn, and trust be - trayed, pray strength to  
 5 Praise God for love, praise God for life, in age or

glad that two are one. When love ex - plodes and fills the  
 day, that love may dare to reach be - yond home's warmth and  
 hope, though all seems strange, till ease re - turns and love grows  
 love till tor - ments fade, till lov - ers keep no score of  
 youth, in calm or strife. Lift up your hearts! Let love be

sky, praise God, and share our Mak - er's joy.  
 light, to serve and strive for truth and right.  
 wise through lis - tening ears and o - pened eyes.  
 wrong, but hear through pain love's Eas - ter song.  
 fed through death and life in bro - ken - bread.

## **\*Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

O God of Becoming, we claim ourselves as your beloved, and name the messy reality of being human. In your presence, we do not shy away from our struggles, failings, or regrets. By your invitation, we come to you not in shame, but with courage, seeking right relationship--with you, with ourselves, with each other, and with all of creation. Guide us in your ways of accountability, with remedies of repair and reconciliation. Help us to believe change is possible, in ourselves and others, so our healing can ripple outwards and our shared power can break forth anew. Amen.

## **\*Assurance**

God does not condemn us or abandon us to our fears. God loves us at all times and in all circumstances and is with us to help. We are forgiven, healed, and empowered.

## **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**

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus

## **Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Open your hearts.

**We open our hearts for the coming of Christ.**

Let us give thanks and praise to God.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed all humanity in your image and called us to love you and serve the world. Even when we turned from you, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity and made covenant with us. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus. Your word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth, and we beheld your glory, Emmanuel. In the beloved community of your church, we celebrate the new covenant Christ Jesus made with us by water and the Spirit. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the song of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place, to forever sing the glory of your name:

Holy, holy God, you are holy. Ruler of the sea and sky. Angel hosts above adore you. Earth sings out its endless cry: "Hail hosanna in the highest!" "Peace on Earth," the heavens reply.

### **Words of Institution & Invitation to the Table**

*Please come forward as the ushers indicate. If you are unable to come forward, remain in your seat and an usher will serve you. The bread is gluten-free.*

**The Bread and Cup**

I Come With Joy

*Black Hymnal, no. 349*

DOVE OF PEACE

## I Come with Joy

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994

*Unison*

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will

free, The life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
 fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, And join our hearts and sing with joy that  
 stay, And go with joy to love the world and

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 Christ is ris - en here, that Christ is ris - en here.  
 live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.

*One of Brian Wren's most widely published texts, this hymn was originally written to "sum up a series of sermons on the meaning of communion. It tries to use simple words to suggest important theological themes."*

Tune: DOVE OF PEACE 8.6.8.6.6.  
 Southern Harmony, 1835  
 Arr. Austin Lovelace, 1977

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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

### \*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 voice, O God, we have heard. Your presence has moved us to respond. Send us where you want us to go. Use the resources we dedicate here to empower your witness of love and care. Fill our days with purpose. We are committed to your work and worship and are grateful for life and all its opportunities. Amen.**

### \*Recessional Hymn    You Are Called to Tell the Story    *Black Hymnal*, No. 357 REGENT'S SQUARE

## You Are Called to Tell the Story

357

*Ruth Duck, 1991*

*Eph. 3:14-21*

- 1 You are called to tell the sto-ry,  
pass-ing words of life a-long,  
Then to blend your voice with oth-ers  
as you sing the sa-cred song.  
Christ be known in all our sing-ing,  
fill-ing all with songs of love.
- 2 You are called to teach the rhy-thm  
of the dance that nev-er ends,  
Then to move with-in the cir-cle,  
hand in hand with strang-ers, friends.  
Christ be known in all our danc-ing,  
touch-ing all with hands of love.
- 3 You are called to set the ta-ble,  
bless-ing bread as Je-sus blessed,  
Then to come with thirst and hun-ger,  
need-ing care like all the rest.  
Christ be known in all our shar-ing,  
feed-ing all with signs of love.
- 4 May the One whose love is broad-er  
than the mea-sure of all space  
Give us words to sing the sto-ry,  
move a-mong us in this place.  
Christ be known in all our liv-ing,  
fill-ing all with gifts of love.

*In this text, hymnwriter Ruth Duck sought to "set ordained ministry in the larger context of the ministry of the whole people"*

Tune: JULION 8.7.8.7.8.7.  
*David Hurd, 1974*

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### \*Benediction



## **Benediction Response**

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**

Come O Fount of Blessings

### **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

### February 6, 2022

**Prayers:** For the family of *Michelyn Trautman*, whose father recently suffered a stroke.

**Happy Birthday this week:** *William Guevara, Donald Wester, Janet Kuehl, Katherine Price, Aby Bauer, Judy Bouma, and Megan Schneider.*

**Coffee Hour:** Due to the rise of COVID-19 cases in Douglas County, there will be no coffee hour this week.

**Fair Trade Coffee:** Thank you to Tina and Rita Grossenstein for donating Fair Trade Coffee for the month of February!

**Chancel Flowers and Decorations:** Flowers and decorations are sponsored this month by Janet Kuehl and Deb Welk.

**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 February 6-12

*Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1, I Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26*

- Monday:** Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m., Pastor's Study.  
Eves, 7 p.m., Zoom
- Tuesday:** Council, 7 p.m., Parlor or Zoom
- 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.  
Brigid St Brigid Debut of *Love in the Title*, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

## Sunday, February 13

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

**Blessings & Rituals for Unsheltering:** Hearing the Word, contemplating the questions, and celebrating will be meaningful time together on Sunday Mornings from 9-10:15a in the Upper Room. On line option is available. Come as you are. Bring the Spirit within you. Leave breathing more freely and refreshed.

*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**.*