



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lenten Theme: A Long Walk

March 13, 2022

Second Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Improvisation on a Plainsong Chant

Bouma

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

Steve Jackson

God desires to gather us.

She gathers us together.

Her wings spread out before us.

Her presence, all around us.

To nurture is her nature.

To mother is her gift.

For our safety, she reaches.

For our good, she moves.

Sheltering over us.

She is our fortress.

*Processional Hymn

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

Black Hymnal, No. 558

IN BABILONE

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

558

Curtis Beach, 1958, rev. 1980; alt.

Ps. 8

1 O how glo-rious, full of won-der is your name o'er all the earth,
 2 When we see your lights of heav-en, moon and stars, your power dis-played,
 3 You have set us in com-mu-nion with the won-ders of your hand,
 4 O how won-drous, O how glo-rious is your name in ev-ery land,

God, who wrought cre-a-tion's splen-dor, bring-ing suns and stars to birth!
 Who are we that you should love us, crea-tures that your hand has made?
 Made us fly with ea-gle pin-ion, pil-grims o-ver sea and land.
 God, whose pur-pose shines be-fore us toward the goal that you have planned!

Rapt in rev-erence we a-dore you, mar-veling at your mys-tic ways.
 Born of earth, yet full of yearn-ing, mix-ture strange of good and ill,
 Soar-ing spire and ru-ined cit-y, these our hopes and fail-ures show.
 Yours the will our hearts are seek-ing, con-scious of our hu-man need.

Hum-bly now we bow be-fore you, lift-ing up our hearts in praise.
 From your ways so of-ten turn-ing, yet your love does seek us still.
 Teach us more of hu-man pit-y, that we in your im-age grow.
 Spir-it in our spir-it speak-ing, make us yours, O God, in-deed.

United Church of Christ minister Curtis Beach submitted this hymn to the editorial committee of the Bulletin in 1958.

Tune: IN BABILONE 8.7.8.7.D.

Words Copyright 1958; renewed 1980, 1991 by the Estate of Curtis Beach.

***Invocation**

Show us your face, O God. Let your love be known to us. In this place, fill us with courage. May your goodness surround us. We need this hour to remember who we are, to let you gather us under your wings. We need this time to feel close to one another. We need reminders of our connection with all creation. Speak to us today. 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

Anthem

Locus Iste

Bruckner

“This Place is Made by God, A Mystery. It Is Without Reproach.”

First Testament Lessons

Psalm 84, Isaiah 43:1-7;
pew Bible pages 513-514, 631-632

Sermon

Watershed

Rev. Katie Miller

***Hymn**

Thank You, God

Black Hymnal, No. 559
AMSTEIN

Thank You, God

Brian Wren, 1973

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1 Thank you, God, for wa - ter, soil, and air, large gifts sup - port - ing
 2 Thank you, God, for min - er - als and ores, the ba - sis of all
 3 Thank you, God, for price - less en - er - gy, stored in each at - om,
 4 Thank you, God, for weav - ing na - ture's life in - to a seam - less
 5 Thank you, God, for mak - ing plan - et earth a home for us and

ev - ery - thing that lives. For - give our spoil - ing and a - buse of
 build - ing, wealth, and speed. For - give our reck - less plun - der - ing and
 gath - ered from the sun. For - give our greed and care - less - ness of
 robe, a frag - ile whole. For - give our haste that tam - pers un - a -
 a - ges yet un - born. Help us to share, con - sid - er, save, and

them. Help us re - new the face of the earth.
 waste. Help us re - new the face of the earth.
 power. Help us re - new the face of the earth.
 ware. Help us re - new the face of the earth.
 store. Come and re - new the face of the earth.

John Weaver composed the tune Amstein for Brian Wren's text for The Presbyterian Hymnal (1990). It is named for Charles A. Amstein, associate pastor of Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York, where Weaver was named music director in 1970.

Tune: AMSTEIN 9.10.10.9.
 John Weaver, 1988

***Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

O Wounded Healer, Mighty and Merciful, nothing we say can undo the damage we have done. You see what we have done with the gifts you have freely given us. Now, in our desperation, we pray. Forgive us, God of mercy and grace. Come again to us, we pray. Amen.

***Assurance**

Hear and receive the good news: Our God has been faithful through generations. Our God makes all things new. In God's love, we are made whole. In God's mercy, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

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

I Come, O Savior

***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**

The hungry are invited to feast at your table, where our mourning turns to dancing, our affliction is met with comfort, and our rejection turns to belonging. Out of your gift of abundance, dear God, we offer gratitude. We gather our gifts together and offer them to you in praise. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky *Black Hymnal*, No. 563

ENDLESS SONG

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

John 10:10

Ruth Duck, 1984; rev. 1989

1 We can-not own the sun-lit sky, the moon, the wild-flowers
 2 When bod-ies shiv-er in the night and, wea-ry, wait for
 3 God calls hu-man-i-ty to join as part-ners in cre-

grow-ing, for we are part of all that is with-
 morn-ing, when chil-dren have no bread but tears, and
 a-ting a fu-ture free from want or fear, life's

in life's riv-er flow-ing. With o-pen hands re-
 war-horns sound their warn-ing, God calls hu-man-i-
 good-ness cel-e-brat-ing. That new world beck-ons

ceive and share the gifts of God's cre-a-tion, that
 ty to wake, to join in com-mon la-bor, that
 from a-far, in-vites our shared en-deav-or, that

all may have a-bun-dant life in ev-ery earth-ly na-tion.
 all may have a-bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.
 all may have a-bun-dant life and peace en-dure for-ev-er.

***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

Sortie Tuccata

DuBois

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

March 13, 2022

Prayers: We pray for *Stephanie Cameron*, recently in the hospital.

Happy Birthday this week: *James Ladwig, Jim Harmon, John Schalles, Lucas Askew, Nancy Barbour, Sophia Rudd, Nithara Chap, Isabel Kratville, and Katy Young.*

Coffee Hour: Join us in the parlor following worship for coffee and conversation.

Fair Trade Coffee: Thank you to Susan and Steve Dolezal for donating Fair Trade Coffee for the month of March.

Chancel Flowers and Decorations: Flowers and decorations are sponsored this month by Bev Fleckten.

FirstKids: Fireside Room following the Conversation with the Children.

Out-of-Town Visit: Wendy Monbouquette will be in Omaha and attending Church on Sunday, March 20th. She looks forward to visiting people at Coffee Hour if anyone wants to say hello. She will also be going to lunch at Switch Food Hall if you'd like to join her there.

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.



Activities for the Coming Week **March 13-19**

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8; I Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

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

Tuesday: Council, Parlor, 5:30 p.m.

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

Sunday, March 20

First Forum – Climate Change: First Central member John Schalles will be joining us to talk about climate change and the impacts he has witnessed in his work in marine biology. John is Professor of Biology at Creighton University, former Department Head and Co-Founder and Director of the Environmental Science Program, and an Adjunct Professor of Marine Science at the University of Georgia. 9:15-10:15 in the Third Floor Parlor.

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

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