



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lenten Theme: A Long Walk

March 20, 2022

Third Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Fugue in H-Minor

Bach

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

Kerrie Kleppin-Winn

Come, everyone who thirsts,
Come to the waters. Come to the wells.
Our souls thirst for you, O God.
We lift up our hands and call on your name
Come, without money. Come without cost.
Incline your ears and listen for good news.
Our flesh faints for you, O God.
Our lips sing praises, beholding your glory.
Come, eat good. Come, feast upon true riches.
Be filled with that which sustains you.
Our souls are satisfied in you, O God.
In the shadow of your wings, we sing with joy.

*Processional Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Black Hymnal, No. 31

All Things Bright and Beautiful

31

Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Unison
Refrain

All things bright and beau-ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,

Last time, end

All things wise and won - der - ful, our dear God made them all.

1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,
2 The pur - ple-head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,

to Refrain

God made their glow-ing col - ors, and made their ti - ny wings.
The sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky.
The ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them ev - ery one.

This hymn for children is based on the first article of the Apostles' Creed: "Maker of heaven and earth." The English hymnwriter Cecil Frances Alexander was married to William

Tune: ROYAL OAK 7.6.7.6. with refrain
English melody
Adapt. Martin Shaw. 1915

***Invocation**

Author of abundance, God of change, we come into this hour with holy expectations. As we travel on our journey of transformation this Lenten season, we know that you are with us. You walk beside us. Your presence surrounds us. Help us to bear fruit as we walk this road. Remind us that you will never leave us nor forsake us, that your rod and your staff comfort us, that you have prepared a feast for us when all can come and eat. Keep us forever in the path as we worship you in spirit and in truth. 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

Showers of Blessing

Bouma

Prophetic Lesson

Isaiah 65:17-25, pew Bible page 654

Sermon

Sanctuary

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

***Hymn**

God Marked a Line and Told the Sea

Black Hymnal, No. 568

OLD 100th

God marked a line and told the sea its surging tides and waves were free to travel up the sloping strand but not to overtake the land.

God set one limit in the glade where tempting, fruited branches swayed. And that first limit stands behind the limits that the law defined.

The line, the limit, and the law are patterns meant to help us draw a bound between what life requires and all the things our heart desires.

(Continued on next page...)

But, discontent with finite powers, we reach to take what is not ours, and then defend our claim by force and swerve from life's intended course.

We are not free when we're confined to every wish that sweeps the mind. But free when freely we accept the sacred bounds that must be kept.

***Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

We confess that we have not always brought forth good fruit. In the midst of chaos and frenzy, we have often lost our way. Our feet have strayed from the place where we met you. Our egos have kept us from seeing our missteps; yet, with you, we know there's another chance for change. There is another opportunity to bear good fruit, in a world full of spoiled

and rotten produce, and systems designed to kill. We are called to be the change that sustains generations. Let us lean with you into this chance for transformation. Amen.

***Assurance**

God's grace and mercy abounds. God is with us in the change. God's everlasting arms embrace us. Each of us is beloved, affirmed, and set free.

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

Elevation in C

***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 the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community, we dedicate these gifts. For the ways it will help us nurture caring relationships with our neighbors, we dedicate these gifts. Let this offering, and the works of our hands and feet, be good fruit in the world. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale *Black Hymnal*, No. 32

ROEDER

GOD
 2-23-97
 4-27-97

32

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

1 Thess. 5: 18; Ps. 136

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983

(Introduction) G G7 C Em Am Dm

Unison

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale
 2 God of the earth-quake God of the storm
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick
 5 God of the neigh - bor God of the foe
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand

G7 C FM7 E7 Am Em

God of the swirl - ing stars How does the crea-ture say
 God of the trum - pet blast How does the crea-ture cry
 God of the emp - ty grave How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prod - i - gal How does the crea-ture say
 God of the prun - ing hook How does the crea-ture say
 God of the lov - ing heart How do your chil-dren say

FM7 Em7 Am Dm 1-5 Gsus4 G C

Awe How does the crea-ture say Praise
 Woe How does the crea-ture cry Save
 Grace How does the crea-ture say Thanks
 Care How does the crea-ture say Life
 Love How does the crea-ture say Peace
 Joy How do your chil-dren say Home.

After forty years in the ministry, Jaroslav Vajda wrote this text to provoke answers to how and why we serve God. By creating

Tune: ROEDER 5.4.6.7.7.
 Carl F. Schalk. 1983

***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

Nun Freut Euch

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 20, 2022

Prayers: We pray for *Michelyn Trautman* and family, on the death of her father.

Happy Birthday this week: *Sandy Lee, Elisa Wiseman, Robin Fey, Savannah Oppel, Patrick Irish, Matt Lee, and Melissa Price.*

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.

Outreach Meeting: Congregational Outreach will meet today following worship in the Third Floor Parlor.

Retreat Team Meeting: The Retreat Team will be meeting in the parlor following worship to discuss the 2022 Retreat. All are welcome to attend.

CEOs: CEOs will meet at the 75th & Dodge Olive Garden this Thursday, March 24, at 5:30 p.m. Plan to arrive a bit ahead of 5:30, as Olive Garden does not take reservations.

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.



Activities for the Coming Week

March 20-26

Lectionary Readings: Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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.
CEOs, 75th & Dodge Olive Garden, 5:30 p.m.

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

Saturday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, March 27

First Forum: Climate Change – Why does it matter to human civilization and the rest of our planet?: 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. Zoom option available.

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**.*

Easter Decorations 2022

Again this Easter morning, flowers and decorations will fill the chancel, and some will be delivered to members and friends who cannot be out and about. If you would like to deliver a flower, please check the box below.

If you would like to donate a memorial gift of \$15.00 or more towards the purchase of Easter flowers and decorations, please fill out the order form below and return to the church office by **Monday, April 11th**. Make checks payable to First Central, and designate your check "Easter Decorations."

Amount Attached \$ _____

Your name _____

In loving memory/honor of

I would like to deliver a flower.

If you have a delivery preference, please note it here:
