



**First Central
Congregational**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lenten Theme: A Long Walk

March 27, 2022

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Adagio K570

Mozart

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.

Introit

Oj Maju Maju

Folk Dance

Call to Worship

Barb & Grant Switzer

Happy are those who experience the grace of God,

Who find forgiveness and mercy from the Holy One.

Happy are those who experience the steadfast love of God,

Who find peace even in times of trial.

Happy are those who experience rest in God,

Who find sabbath to renew their spirit.

***Processional Hymn**

We Would Be Building

Black Hymnal, No. 607

FINLANDIA

Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49; 1 Esd. 5:56-7:15

Purd E. Deitz, 1935; alt.

1 We would be build - ing; tem - ples still un - done o'er crum - bling
 2 Teach us to build; up - on the sol - id rock we set the
 3 O keep us build - ing, Sav - ior; may our hands ne'er fal - ter

walls their cross - es scarce - ly lift, wait - ing till love can
 dream that hard - ens in - to deed, ribbed with fine steel, both
 when the dream is in our hearts, when to our ears there

raise the bro - ken stone, and hearts cre - a - tive
 time and change to mock, the un - fail - ing pur - pose
 come di - vine com - mands and all the pride of

bridge the hu - man rift. We would be build - ing,
 of our no - blest creed. Teach us to build; O
 sin - ful will de - parts. We build with you; O

Ar - chi - tect Di - vine, re - veal the shape of life in your de - sign.
 Mak - er, lend us sight to see the tow - ers gleam - ing in the light.
 grant en - dur - ing worth un - til your prom - ised realm shall come on earth.

***Invocation**

Renewing God, after times of broken relationships, painful injustices, and feeling deserted, we walk through this Lenten season yearning for restoration and your comforting grace. In this time of reflection, we evaluate the relationships between us and our neighbors. Fill our weary souls with hope. Renew us, 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

Anthem

Many Gifts

Epistle Lesson

1 Peter 4:7-11, pew Bible pages 220-221

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God within us,
For the Word of God among us,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Skill Sharing

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

***Hymn**

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

Black Hymnal, No. 539

SERVANT SONG

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

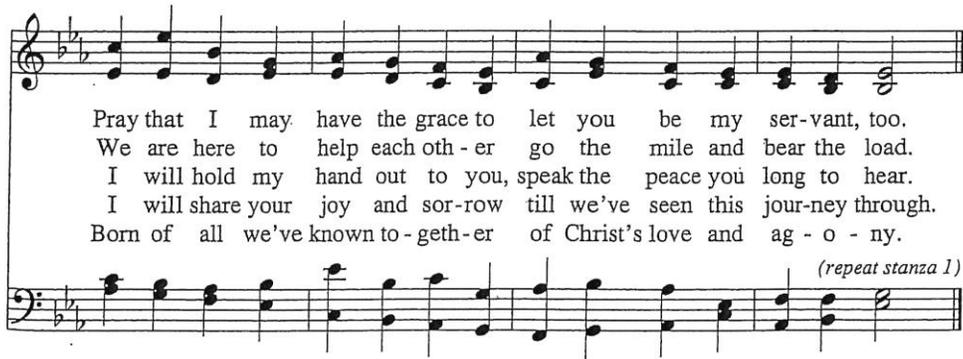
539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser- vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil- grims on a jour- ney, we are trav- elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ- light for you in the shad- ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep- ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav- en we shall find such har- mo- ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser- vant, too.
We are here to help each oth- er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor- row till we've seen this jour- ney through.
Born of all we've known to- geth- er of Christ's love and ag- o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

DL 1000 3 1997 by Richard Gillard and later made his home

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8787

***Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

There are moments when our decisions do not take into consideration the well-being of our neighbors. There are times when our reactions turn inward instead of building healthy reconciliation. How is it that we are holding back our neighbor's rebirth? How do we limit God's grace and radical love? How do our actions and biases impede our own spiritual growth? Breath of Life, urge us to be life-giving agents of your love. May our actions be healing for us and for all those we encounter. Amen.

***Assurance**

God, our Divine Parent, embraces us with infinite love and grace. May the mercy we experience transform our minds, hearts, and souls. May we extend God's grace.

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

Simple Gifts

Kelly Beaman

***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**

Loving God, with gratitude we celebrate these offerings. Today, we joyfully share them with you and this community. May the act of giving enliven our spirits, building excitement around us, and creating a culture of generosity. Open us to new possibilities for using our skills to build your world. So that everyone might experience dignity and justice. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

Take My Gifts

Black Hymnal, No. 562

TALAVERA TERRACE

11-17-87
11-24-87

Take My Gifts

Shirley Erena Murray, 1991

1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
 2 Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
 3 Take what-ever I can offer— gifts that I have yet to find,

gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
 harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
 skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,

now because your love has touched me, I have love to give a way,
 spiced with humor, laced with laughter— flavor of the Jesus life,
 things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:

now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!
 tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.
 take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

Shirley Erena Murray recounted that Colin Gibson composed this tune for her stewardship text "almost instantaneously."

Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Colin Gibson, 1991

*Benediction

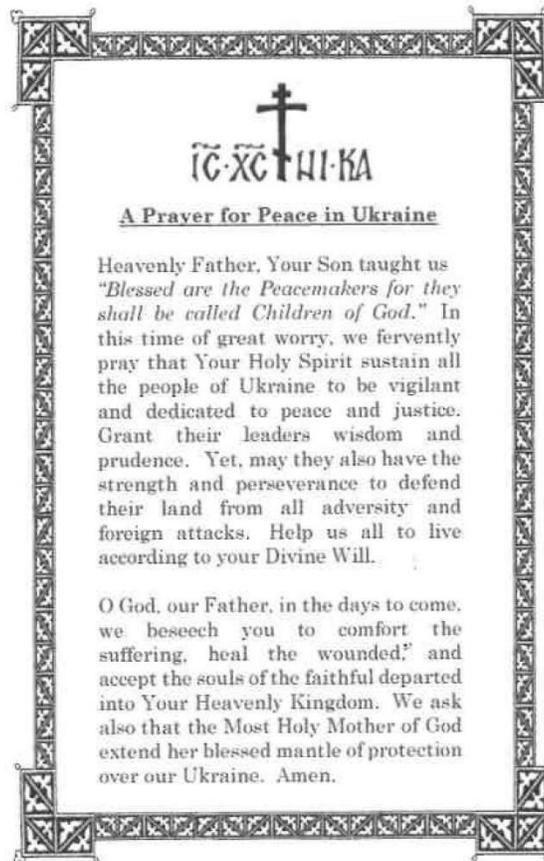
Benediction Response

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

Alla Turka

Mozart



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 27, 2022

Happy Birthday this week: *Wyatt Straka* and *Tom Syster!*

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 Flekten.

FirstKids: Fireside Room following the Conversation with the Children.

Education Meeting: The Education Committee will meet following worship in the parlor.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering: Included in this bulletin, you will find information and an envelope for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Your generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing – United Church of Christ enables our church and our worldwide partners to make a difference in the lives and communities around the world. Together, we are responding to disasters, supporting sustainable farming, education, and health initiatives, as well as pitching in to assist people fleeing violence from their home communities.

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.



Activities for the Coming Week **March 27 – April 2**

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8.

Monday: Staff Meeting, Pastor's Study, 1:30 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.
Brigit St Brigit, *God on Trial*, Opening Night 7:30 p.m.

Saturday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Brigit St Brigit, *God on Trial* 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 3

First Forum: Interfaith Power & Light: Helen Penny Greer, Board President of Nebraska Interfaith Power and Light, will join us and talk about their work: to encourage dialogue across the usual political and religious divides, so that we can make real progress in addressing climate change for the people of Nebraska.

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:
