



“Be Thou My Vision,” by Mike Moyers

# Central Congregational United Church of Christ

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 19, 2026**

Ministers / **All of us**

Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**

Worship Leader / **Chaunzey Tenbrink**

Music Director and Accompanist / **Linda Smith**

Music Guest / **Carlos Cabezas**

Song Leaders / **Gayle Hassler and Janice Ayers**

## **Music for Gathering**

### **\*Opening Prayer**

**Holy One, guide the lost and lonely to this place.**

**May we be their witness, and may they be ours.**

**May we grant them forgiveness,**

**and may they grant the same to us.**

**May we sit together and look to you, Holy One,**

**and your Kin-dom here and to come. Amen.**

*\* indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

***Bold** indicates to speak or sing in unison.*

## **\*Congregational Hymn**

*“Enter, Rejoice and Come In”*

**Enter, rejoice and come in. Enter, rejoice and come in.  
Today will be a joyful day! Enter, rejoice and come in!**

**Open your hearts, everyone. Open your hearts, everyone.  
Today will be a joyful day! Enter, rejoice and come in!**

**Don't be afraid of some change. Don't be afraid of some change.  
Today will be a joyful day! Enter, rejoice and come in!**

## **Greetings & Announcements**

### **Call to Worship**

Welcome to church: not a place, but an invitation.

**Come and see.**

Not a building, but a way of engaging.

**Come and see.**

Not a service but a way of serving.

**Come and see.**

Not an institution, but a path to adventure.

**Jesus said, “Come and see.”**

### **Prayer of Unburdening**

**God of grace and mercy, who created us from your own image  
and who declared us to be “very good,” we recognize that we too often try  
to center the world on ourselves rather than see that we are part of a whole.  
Forgive and reconcile us to you and to all people. Amen.**

## **Assurance of God's Love**

### **Passing the Peace**



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## The Readings

*Luke 24:13-35*

That same day, two of the disciples were making their way to a village called Emmaus — which was about seven miles from Jerusalem — discussing all that had happened as they went.

While they were discussing these things, Jesus approached and began to walk along with them, though they were kept from recognizing Jesus, who asked them, “What are you two discussing as you go your way?”

They stopped and looked sad. One of them, Cleopas by name, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who doesn’t know the things that have happened these past few days?”

Jesus said to them, “What things?”

They said, “About Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet powerful in word and deed in the eyes of God and all the people — how our chief priests and leaders delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. We were hoping that he was the One who would set Israel free. Besides all this, today — the third day since these things happened — some women of our group have just brought us some astonishing news. They were at the tomb before dawn and didn’t find the body; they returned and informed us that they had seen a vision of angels, who declared that Jesus was alive. Some of our number went to the tomb and found it to be just as the women said, but they didn’t find Jesus.”

Then Jesus said to them, “What little sense you have! How slow you are to believe all that the prophets have announced! Didn’t the Messiah have to undergo all this to enter into glory?” Then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted for them every passage of scripture which referred to the Messiah. By now they were near the village they were going to, and Jesus appeared to be going further. But they said eagerly, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening — the day is practically over.” So the savior went in and stayed with them.

After sitting down with them to eat, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus, who immediately vanished from their sight.

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They said to one another, “Weren’t our hearts burning inside us as this one talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?” They got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven and the rest of the company assembled. They were greeted with, “Christ has risen! It’s true! Jesus has appeared to Simon!” Then the travelers recounted what had happened on the road, and how they had come to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

*“Where the Sidewalk Ends”*

by Shel Silverstein

## **Special Music**

Carlos Cabezas

## **Message**

*“An End and a Beginning”*

Rev. Gage Church

## **\*Congregational Hymn**

*“Morning Has Broken”*

**Morning has broken like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain’s new fall sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dew fall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning.  
Born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God’s re-creation of the new day!**

## **Joys and Concerns**

*We respond with “Lord, hear our prayer.”*

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# Time of Silence & Pastoral Prayer

## The Prayer of Jesus

*Please pray any version you wish. Here is one version:*

**Our Creator, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your Kin-dom come, your 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 yours is the Kin-dom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## Offering

God is good! **All the time!**  
All the time! **God is good!**  
Let us share the goodness of our God.

## \*Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.**

## \*Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, you give us grace, mercy, forgiveness, and hope.  
May our gifts plant seeds of hope in our chaotic world. Amen.**

## \*Closing Hymn

*“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”*

**Refrain: Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.  
Yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.**

**Upon the mountain my God spoke,  
out of God’s mouth came fire and smoke.  
Looked all around me; looked so fine;  
I asked my God if all were mine.**

*Refrain*

***Continued on next page.***

Oh, Jordan river, chilly and cold,  
it chills the body, not the soul.  
There's only one train on this track:  
it runs to heaven, then right back.  
*Refrain*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Music for Sending**

*"Amen"*

## **SAVE THE DATES**

**Justice and Safety Check-in** every Sunday at 9 a.m.

**Meditation** @ 5 p.m. every Monday

**Book Club** @ 4 p.m. every Thursday

**Bell Choir** @ 7 p.m. every first, third and fourth Tuesday, plus second Sunday

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**JUMP Moral March** / today @ 2 p.m.

**Topeka Unidos Presentation** / April 26 @ 8:45 a.m.

**Forest Meditation** / April 28 @ 1-3 p.m.

**Nehemiah Assembly** / April 30 @ 6:30 p.m.

**Last Game Night until fall** / May 8 @ 6 p.m.

**Worship at Gage Park** / June 14 @ 10 a.m.

**Topeka Pride Palooza** / June 20 @ 6-10 p.m.

**Interfaith Pride Program** / date tbd

**Drag Bingo** / June 27 @ time tbd

# *Moral* **MARCH**

**TODAY AT 1:45 AT UNIVERSITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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