

Central Congregational United Church of Christ

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

Ministers / **All of Us**
Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**
Worship Leader / **Gayle Hassler**
Music Director and Accompanist / **Linda Smith**
Song Leaders / **Gayle Hassler and Janice Ayers**

Music for Gathering

Opening Breath

***Congregational Hymn**

"Christ, Be Our Light"

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.
Refrain

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.
Refrain

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.
Refrain

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your Kin-dom come.
Refrain

* indicates to rise in body or spirit.

Bold indicates to speak or sing in unison.

Call to Worship

God, you come to us as a neighbor, a stranger, an immigrant.
You bind our wounds and carry us to safety.

May we come to you with love in our hearts, souls and minds.
May we welcome the stranger, loving our neighbor as ourselves.

Prayer of Unburdening

God, you journey with us in our confusion,
our doubts, our failings, our struggles.

**At times, we fail to support those in our world
who suffer injustice, oppression, and poverty.**

**At times, we lack courage to address the causes
of injustice, oppression, and poverty.**

**At times, we give in to despair when confronted
with the injustice of our world.**

God, heal the brokenness in our hearts.

Give us strength and courage
to face what is broken in ourselves and our world. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Passing the Peace

The Reading

Romans 13:8-10

Owe no debt to anyone — except the debt that binds us to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you have fulfilled the Law. The commandments — no committing adultery, no killing, no stealing, no coveting, and all the others — are all summed up in this one: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love never wrongs anyone — hence love is the fulfillment of the Law.

Special Music & Wonder Photos

Tim Sharp

Message

Rev. Gage Church

*Congregational Hymn

“When Peace Like a River (It Is Well With My Soul)”

When peace, like a river, holds me each day,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”
It is well with my soul, it is well with my soul.

Though evil should tempt me, though trials should come,
let this blessed assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate
and has shown me the way to my soul.
It is well with my soul, it is well with my soul.

O God, speed the day that is filled with your light,
when clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall appear,
“even so” — it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul, it is well with my soul.

Announcements, Joys and Concerns

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.

A note to visitors: Your presence here today is a gift to us.

We are “centralchurchtopeka” on Venmo.

** indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

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

***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**

O God, you invite us to participate in a hospitality that is something else!
Help us not only to accept it with thanksgiving,
but to freely share it with those whose lives
are restricted or crushed by the meanness of this world. Amen.

Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks for the memory and presence of Jesus,
who comes to us amid the storms of our lives,
pulling us up from the despair that would swallow us,
and with a word, brings his awesome peace. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"
(twice through)

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Parent, we are family.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

***Benediction**

Music for Sending

"Amen"