

Imagine Together

Central Congregational United Church of Christ

IMAGINE TOGETHER: LOVE

November 3, 2024

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

Prelude

“Patriotic Song”

Preparing for Worship

*Opening Hymn

“Down by the Riverside”

Gonna lay down my sword and shield,
down by the riverside, down by the riverside, down by the riverside.

Gonna lay down my sword and shield,
down by the riverside,
gonna study war no more.

Refrain:

I ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more.
I ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more.

Continued on next page.

* indicates to rise in body or spirit.

Bold indicates to speak or sing in unison.

Gonna put on my long white robe,
down by the riverside, down by the riverside, down by the riverside.

Gonna put on my long white robe,
down by the riverside,
gonna study war no more.

Refrain

Gonna meet my Savior,
down by the riverside, down by the riverside, down by the riverside.

Gonna meet my Savior,
down by the riverside,
gonna study war no more.

Refrain

Call to Worship

Friends, we come to worship bringing our whole selves:

Our excitement *and* our anxiety;

Our trepidation *and* our confidence;

Our hope *and* our disillusionment;

Our fear *and* our joy;

There is room enough for it all in this beloved community.

Let us worship.

Greetings and Announcements

Passing the Peace

Prayer of Affirmation

Prayer of Confession

Divine One, grant us your mercy.

We confess that we often struggle during the election season.

Some of us have remained silent when we should have spoken up.

Some of us have said things we wish we hadn't.

Some of us have lost friends.

Some of us aren't talking to members of our family.

Some of us have lost trust in one another and in you.

Forgive us, and bind us together as we move forward in your way.

Assurance of Pardon

Stewardship Moments

Becky and Jill Wedeking
Betty Edson

The Reading

Mark 12:28-34

One of the religious scholars who had listened to them debating and had observed how well Jesus had answered them now came up and put a question to him: “Which is the foremost of all the commandments?”

Jesus replied, “This is the foremost: ‘Hear, O Israel, God, our God, is one. You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

The scholar said to Jesus, “Well spoken, Teacher! What you have said is true: the Most High is one and there is no other. To love God with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself — this is far more important than any burnt offering or sacrifice.”

Jesus, seeing how wisely the scholar had spoken, said, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to question Jesus any more.

Special Music

“Over in the Glory Land”

Linda Smith

Message

“Yeah, It’s About Love Again”

Rev. Gage Church

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*Congregational Hymn

“Blowin’ in the Wind”

**How many roads must a man walk down
before you call him a man?**

**Yes, ‘n’ how many seas must a white dove sail
before she sleeps in the sand?**

**Yes, ‘n’ how many times must the cannon balls fly
before they’re forever banned?**

**The answer, my friend, is blowin’ in the wind,
the answer is blowin’ in the wind.**

**How many times must a man look up
before he can see the sky?**

**Yes, ‘n’ how many ears must one man have
before he can hear people cry?**

**Yes, ‘n’ how many deaths will it take till he knows
that too many people have died?**

**The answer, my friend, is blowin’ in the wind,
the answer is blowin’ in the wind.**

**How many years can a mountain exist
before it’s washed to the sea?**

**Yes, ‘n’ how many years can some people exist
before they’re allowed to be free?**

**Yes, ‘n’ how many times can a man turn his head
pretending he just doesn’t see?**

**The answer, my friend, is blowin’ in the wind,
the answer is blowin’ in the wind.**

Joys and Concerns

We respond with “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Time of Silence

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The Prayer of Jesus

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

**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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Commitment to Action

We believe in the divine call to put our faith into action:

**Advocating for the vulnerable,
Protecting all of creation,
Building the beloved community.**

We commit to God and to humanity to put our faith into action:

**By our words and our deeds,
Through our money and our labor,
In the voting booth and the public square.**

We challenge ourselves and our neighbors to put our faith into action:

**Regardless of election outcomes,
Persisting through failures,
Confronting injustice in our community and beyond.**

We will put our faith into action

Today and in the days to come. Amen.

Offering

We are “centralchurchtopeka” on Venmo.

*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

**Abundant One, we give thanks for the freedom to worship you,
and we give thanks for the challenge to put our faith into action.
May our gifts today support your work in the world
as we pray, act and vote. Amen.**

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Holy Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ
and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink.
Now send us into the world to do the work you have given us to do:
to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls,
to free prisoners and to make the powerful care. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the harsh past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by your might, led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

*Benediction

Postlude

“Amen”

Worship notes: All prayers written by the Rev. Dr. Mandy Todd, KIFA Director of Engagement and Development.

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