

Central Congregational United Church of Christ

WELCOME!

January 25, 2026

Ministers / **All of us**

Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**

Worship Leader / **Chaunzey Tenbrink**

Music Director and Accompanist / **Linda Smith**

Music Guest / **Kim Long**

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

Music for Gathering

***Opening Prayer**

Loving God, we are humbly in your presence.

**Please open our hearts and our minds
so that we may dwell in your Spirit. Amen.**

***Congregational Hymn**

"I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy"

**I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart.
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.**

**I've got the peace that passeth understanding
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart.
I've got the peace that passeth understanding
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.**

**I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus
down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart.
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus
down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.**

Greetings & Announcements

** indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

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

Call to Worship

To the fisherman Jesus said:

“Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.

To the tax collector Jesus said:

“Follow me.”

To the rich man Jesus said:

**“Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”**

At the last supper Jesus said:

“Follow me.”

To you and to me and to all of us Jesus says:

“Follow me!”

Prayer of Unburdening

Loving God, you call us to follow you, but we really go our own way.
We do our Sunday morning check-in, and then check out by afternoon.
Our first priority is not with you. Too often we do just enough to get by.
When we choose to live in darkness, God, please send the light. Amen.

Assurance of God's Love

Passing the Peace

The Reading

Matthew 4:18-23

As Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he watched two brothers — Simon, who was called Peter, and Andrew — casting a net into the sea. They fished by trade. Jesus said to them, “Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of humankind.” They immediately abandoned their nets and began to follow Jesus.

Jesus walked along further and caught sight of a second pair of brothers — James and John, sons of Zebedee. They too were in their boat, mending their nets with their father. Jesus called them, and immediately they abandoned both boat and father to follow him.

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the Kin-dom of Heaven and healing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses among the people.

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Special Music

Kim Long

Message

Rev. Gage Church

***Congregational Hymn**

“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”

**You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
but only asking for me to follow.**

***Refrain:* Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you’ve called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.**

**You know full well what I have, Lord:
neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
just these my fish nets and will for working.**

Refrain

**You need my hands, my exhaustion,
working love for the rest of the weary —
a love that’s willing to go on loving.**

Refrain

**You, who have fished other waters;
you, the longing of souls that are yearning:
O loving Friend, you have come to call me.**

Refrain

Joys and Concerns

We respond with “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Time of Silence

Pastoral Prayer

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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**

**Use our gifts, loving God, so others might not be scared by life;
so they may be sheltered in the blanket of your grace;
so they might find a home with us as their family. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn**

"O Happy Day"
(twice through)

**O happy day! O happy day!
When Jesus washed, O when he washed,
when Jesus washed, he washed my sins away.
He taught me how to watch, fight and pray,
fight and pray and live rejoicing every day, every day.**

***Benediction**

***Music for Sending**

"Amen"