



Central Congregational United Church of Christ

KIN-DOM LIVING

October 26, 2025

Ministers / **All of us**

Pastor / **Rev. Gage Church**

Music Director and Accompanist / **Linda Smith**

Guest Vocalist / **Kim Long**

Song Leaders / **Kim Long, Gayle Hassler and Janice Ayers**

Music for Gathering

"This Is My Father's World"

***Opening Prayer**

Our loving God,
you yourself remind us through your holy people
that all our religious practices are not worth anything
if we use them to try to bend you our way.
God, may we come to you in humility and repentance,
ready to encounter you in love and to turn your way. Amen.

***Congregational Hymn**

"Draw the Circle Wide"

Refrain: Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.

Refrain

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** indicates to rise in body or spirit.*

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

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.

Refrain

Let the dreams we dream be larger
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.

Refrain

Greetings & Announcements

Call to Worship

Jesus, we come to worship today as beginners in the School of Beginning.

**You are the firstborn of the dead, herald of hope in despair,
bringer of light after a long season of darkness.**

Begin a new thing in us today:

**New ways of thinking,
new ways of living,
new ways of being a reconciling community.**

We pray this together as people of peace:

**As a people longing for peace, your peace,
peace that passes understanding. Amen.**

Prayer of Unburdening

Merciful God, all that we have and all that we are come from you,
yet we prefer to focus on what we have done to justify ourselves.

**We count all that we have done to earn your love
rather than confess our need for your grace and mercy.**

**We point out the shortcomings of others
rather than examine our own waywardness.**

Forgive us, God.

Open our eyes to our need for your indiscriminate and unconditional love.

**Free us from our need to justify ourselves in your sight,
and guide us as we welcome the fullness of your life in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

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Passing the Peace

The Readings

“The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus spoke the parable addressed to those who believed in their own self-righteousness while holding everyone else in contempt: “Two people went up to the Temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed like this: ‘I give you thanks, O God, that I’m not like the others — greedy, crooked, adulterous — or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I pay tithes on everything I earn.’ The other one, however, kept a distance, not even daring to look up to heaven. In real humility, all the tax collector said was, ‘O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.’ Believe me, the tax collector went home from the Temple right with God, while the Pharisee didn’t. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, while those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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Special Music

"Here I Am, Lord"

Kim Long

Message

"All the Difference"

Rev. Gage Church

*Congregational Hymn

"Down to the River to Pray"

**As I went down to the river to pray,
studying about that good old way,
and who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord, show me the way.**

**O sisters, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
O sisters, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.**

**As I went down to the river to pray,
studying about that good old way,
and who shall wear the robe and crown?
Good Lord, show me the way.**

**O brothers, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
O brothers, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.**

**As I went down to the river to pray,
studying about that good old way,
and who shall wear the starry crown?
Good Lord, show me the way.**

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O sinners, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down.
O sinners, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray,
studying about that good old way,
and who shall wear the robe and crown?
Good Lord, show me the way.

Joys and Concerns

We respond with "Lord, hear our prayer."

Time of Silence

Pastoral Prayer

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 Kin-dom 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 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.

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***Prayer of Dedication**

O God, your creative presence makes the earth abundant.
You provide us with what is needed, in your love.
Through this offering, we participate in your work,
so all your people might be dressed in pure joy. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

“Standing in the Need of Prayer”

Not my mother, not my father, but it’s me, O Lord,
standin’ in the need of prayer.

Not my sister, not my brother, but it’s me, O Lord,
standin’ in the need of prayer.

Refrain: It’s me, it’s me, it’s me, O Lord,
standin’ in the need of prayer.
It’s me, it’s me, it’s me, O Lord,
standin’ in the need of prayer.

Not the deacon, not the preacher, but it’s me, O Lord,
standin’ in the need of prayer.

Not the elder, not the teacher, but it’s me, O Lord,
standin’ in the need of prayer.

Refrain

***Benediction**

Music for Sending

“Amen”

SAVE THE DATES

Spirited Adult Discussion @ 9 a.m. every Sunday

Meditation @ 5 p.m. every Monday

Bell Choir Rehearsal @ 7 p.m. every Tuesday (except 2nd Tuesday)

Book Club @ 4:30 p.m. every Thursday

Trunk or Treat / Today @ 2-4 p.m.

Fall Soup & Dessert Sale / Nov. 8

Heritage Sunday Potluck and Annual Meeting / Nov. 23

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